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Farooq-led all party delegation meets ECI, opposition camp

Top oppn leaders to visit J&K; extend support for Assembly polls, Statehood

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Mar 16: National leaders of opposition camp assured to visit Jammu and Kashmir for assessing ground situation and listen to grievance of people here as National Conference president

Besides, a coordination team between a group of MPs and J&K leaders will be formed for regular updates on ground situation in the Union Territory and seeking redressal by taking up the issues in and outside Parliament.

"The opposition leaders are



Sharad Pawar and Farooq Abdullah talking to mediapersons after meeting of all-party J&K delegation with opposition leaders at New Delhi on Thursday.

Farooq Abdullah-led all party delegation today met them at New Delhi for seeking their support in ensuring early J&K Assembly elections and restoration of Statehood.

their course of action, particularly for restoration of Statehood and immediate Assembly election," Farooq Abdullah told the Excelsior on telephone from New Delhi.

The all party delegation from J&K, comprising representatives from 13 opposition parties, also met the Election Commission of India at Nirvachan Marg and submitted a

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

memorandum to CEC Rajiv Kumar pressing for early Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

Chief Election Commissioner told us that all necessary exercises such as delimitation of constituencies and revision of electoral rolls were already completed since November last and the polls will be held soon at appropriate time," Farooq Abdullah further informed and claimed that meetings with the Election Commission as well as the opposition party leaders were encouraging and fruitful. (Contd on page 11 Col 5)

'Cooperative strong pillar of economic, social development'
PM's 'mantra' of 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi'
 will help improve rural economy: LG

Excelsior Correspondent
 BIHAR, Mar 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the inauguration ceremony of Saran Dairy Producer Co. Ltd at



LG Manoj Sinha addressing a function at Gopalganj, Bihar on Thursday.

Gopalganj, Bihar today.

Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the role of Dairy Sector in uplifting the rural economy, lives of small and marginal farmers and strengthening the spirit of Cooperatives.

"Dairy Sector has strengthened the rural economy and enhanced the economic condition of millions of small and marginal farmers of the country. This sector has empowered the

women through Self Help Groups and they are playing key role in delivering social and economic benefits to the rural economy," Sinha said. He remembered valuable

contributions of great personalities like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Tribhuvandas and Verghese Kurien in strengthening the Cooperative movement and laying the foundation of Milk Revolution in India.

After Independence, Gujarat and Bihar witnessed the rise of the Cooperative revolution. Cooperatives have worked as a

Will help check movement of militants, arms, narcotics
MHA orders setting up of Border Police Posts in all border districts of J&K

Step aimed at further strengthening of Border Grid

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 16: In a major decision aimed at creating second or third line of defence along the borders, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved creation of Police Border Posts in all border districts of Jammu and Kashmir with a view to ensure that arms, ammunition, explosives, currency and narcotics sent through infiltrators or drones by Pakistan don't manage to cross the border areas.

The Police Border Posts have been approved in Jammu,

Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu region and Baramulla and Kupwara districts in the Kashmir valley, official sources told the Excelsior.

"The step is aimed at further strengthening the Border Grid. It will ensure that no adverse activities by the enemy succeed on the border. Be it infiltration, drone activities, illegal smuggling of weapons, pushing narcotics and currency besides arms, ammunition and explosives. All such activities have to be plugged at any cost," sources said.

They added that in most of

the cases; Army and BSF, deployed on LoC and International Border succeed in curbing the illegal activities. However, if infiltrators or Over Ground Workers (OGWs) carrying consignments cross the first line of defence, it has to be ensured that they don't manage to breach border pickets.

Army is frontline force along the Line of control (LoC) in Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla and Kupwara districts while the Border Security Force (BSF) mans the International Border in Jammu, Samba and Kathua

(Contd on page 11 Col 3)

2 pilots martyred in helicopter crash

ITANAGAR/GUWAHATI, Mar 16:

Two pilots on board a Cheetah helicopter of the Army were killed when it crashed near Mandala in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh this morning, a Defence spokesperson said.

The deceased officers have been identified as Lt Colonel VVB Reddy and his co-pilot Major Jayanth A, he said. Defence spokesperson Lt Colonel Mahendra Rawat said in Guwahati that the helicopter was on an operational sortie

(Contd on page 11 Col 3)

Srinagar-Leh NH opened in record 68 days: DG BRO

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 16: The strategic 434-km long Srinagar-Leh highway was thrown open

* Pic on page 11
 Video on www.excelsiornews.com

by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in a record time of 68 days.

Director General Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Lt General Rajeev Chaudhary, who spoke to reporters after

(Contd on page 11 Col 3)

T5 tunnel at Panthyal opens for traffic

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Mar 16: The T5 tunnel that bypasses the landslide-prone Panthyal stretch on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was opened for traffic today, officials said.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Work on the twin-tube 880-metre tunnel, part of the highway realignment project, started in February 2020. Its completion has put an end to the threat

(Contd on page 11 Col 3)

HC directs for implementation of SWM bylaws

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 16: The High Court today directed the authorities to inform it with regard to implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) bylaws in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Division Bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Mohan Lal while hearing the matter filed by Environmental Policy Group (NGO) through advocate Shafkat Nazir said the authorities were directed to file

(Contd on page 11 Col 5)

GAD to conduct audit of eHRMS on priority
Govt to prepare dossier of employees observing strikes in violation of Rules

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 16: Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to prepare dossier of employees, who are participating in strikes in blatant violation of Government Employees (Conduct) Rules. Moreover, departments will be held accountable wherever such strikes are resorted to for inaction on the part of officers.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that in a recent high-level meeting Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta observed that despite employees' friendly approach of the

Transfer window to remain open from 1st to 30th April

Government, some vested interests are provoking employees to resort to strike which shall now be closely monitored.

"On one side, the departments will be held accountable wherever such strikes are resorted to for inaction on the part of any authorities while as on the other side unruly employees will also be proceeded against", sources said, adding "the Chief Secretary has issued directions for preparation of dossier with complete record of participation in strikes by the employees in violation of J&K Government

Employees (Conduct) Rules.

"The Government has adopted employees' friendly approach and will address all genuine demands of the employees as such the employees are expected to regularly apprise concerned authorities about any genuine grievance and the concerned authorities are expected to address them in a time bound manner and if required escalate these to the superior authorities", sources said quoting the observations and directions of the Chief Secretary. He has directed all

the departments to undertake DPCs regularly and resolve other Human Resource issues in a time bound manner.

It is pertinent to mention here that Rule 20 of the J&K Government Employees (Contd on page 11 Col 1)

Democratic institutions under threat, saner voices being muzzled by BJP: Patil

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Mar 16: Senior AICC leader and Incharge J&K and Ladakh affairs of the party, Rajni Patil today alleged that democratic institutions are under threat in the country and saner voices are being muzzled by BJP and its offshoots, which is a matter of serious concern.

Addressing party functionaries here this evening, the AICC leader said, "The situation in the country is different now as the democratic institutions are under the threat. The saner voices are being muzzled by the BJP and its offshoots, which is a matter of serious concern."

"It is the duty of every right-thinking person to raise his or her voice against these undemo-

cratic policies to ensure that there is no damage to the very foundations of the country," she said.

Patil said the Congress has strengthened the democratic set up of the country and it will continue to work in that direction despite the coercion and other

■ Pic on page 11

pressure tactics by the ruling BJP. Urging the Government of India to start the developmental process in J&K, she said it had come to a standstill since BJP assumed power at New Delhi.

"Mere claims and running paper horses with regard to the wellbeing of the people and development of J&K won't serve any purpose. There is a need to address the developmental issues, rising unemployment and

other major issues concerning the people," she added.

Patil said Congress was desirous of real empowerment of the people in Jammu and Kashmir through the restoration of Statehood. The political philosophy that formed the edifice of the Congress Party's agenda encompasses the true empowerment of the people through restoration of Statehood and legal safeguards for their land and jobs, she added.

The AICC leader said that the political empowerment of the people goes through the route of socio-economic development. For addressing alienation among the people, Statehood should be restored to J&K with dignity and honour, she reiterated.

(Contd on page 11 Col 7)

'125 out of 129 grievances of labourers resolved till Jan 2023'
Unemployment rate for male 1.4%, female 4.8% in Ladakh as per last PLF Survey

Bivek Mathur

JAMMU, Mar 16: The unemployment rate for age group 15 years and above in Ladakh in the year 2020-21 was 1.4% for male and 4.8% for female as per the last Periodic Labour Force (PLF) Survey.

This information was shared in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Rameswar Telu in reply to a written question of Member Parliament from Ladakh, Jamiyang Tsering Namgyal.

The BJP MP from Ladakh, Namgyal had asked the Union MoS Labour and Employment about the details of the data of

unemployment in Ladakh in terms of both genders and age group, and the steps taken by the Government to resolve the unemployment.

"As per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2020-21, the estimated unemployment rate on usual status for age 15 years and above during 2020-21 in Ladakh was 1.4% for male and 4.8% for female respectively," the Union MoS told the Lok Sabha.

He further said that employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government.

Accordingly, the Union Minister said the Government of India has taken various steps for generating employment in the

country. "The Government of India has announced Aatmanirbhar Bharat package to provide stimulus to business and to mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19."

"Under this package, the Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than Rs 27 lakh crore. This package comprises of various long term schemes/programmes/policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities," the Minister said in the Lok Sabha.

He said the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY) was launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize

(Contd on page 11 Col 5)

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