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'Rahul hoisting tricolor at Lal Chowk indicates change'

Will submit report to EC on J&K polls immediately when sought: Shah

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 18: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said they will send report to the Election Commission of India (ECI) immediately when the Commission asks for it for holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir even as he maintained that recruitment of local youth in the militancy and stone pelting have ended in the Valley.

Speaking at the India Today Conclave last night, Shah while responding to a question on conduct of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir said a call on the polls has to be taken by the

Situation along LAC fragile: Jaishankar



Election Commission of India.

"Whenever they say they are prepared, the polls will happen," he said.

Asked further by the interview-

er, the Home Minister said: "When they (the Election Commission) say they are fully prepared (for holding the elections), they will ask for report (from the Home Ministry). We will immediately send the report".

Now, this report hasn't to be generated as all Police Stations and data is maintained online by the NCRB including total number of First Information Reports (FIRs) registered.

"Recruitment of local youth in the militancy has ended. There

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Sinha inaugurates Durga Bhawan

Committee formed to dispel apprehensions over Vaishno Devi ropeway project: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha today said a committee has been formed to dispel apprehensions of Katra residents over the proposed ropeway project at Vaishno Devi shrine.

Sinha, who is also the chairperson of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), was speaking to reporters after dedicating the newly constructed

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Durga Bhawan having the capacity to accommodate 3000 pilgrims per day near the sanctum sanctorum.

Responding to a question



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating Durga Bhawan at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine on Saturday.

about the resentment among the residents of Katra over the proposed ropeway project, Sinha said his administration is open to suggestions and wants them onboard while executing the project which

would help people with disabilities to visit the shrine.

"There are apprehensions among the Katra residents (over the loss of livelihood opportunities

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Cop arrested by CBI dies during questioning

Excelsior Correspondent
 KATHUA, Mar 18: Mushtaq Ahmed, Head Constable working

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

as Munshi in Women Police Station, Kathua who was caught

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

COVID tally crosses 800 after 126 days

NEW DELHI, Mar 18:

India's single-day tally of COVID-19 cases crossed 800 after 126 days today, while the number of active cases climbed to 5,389, according to Union Health Ministry data.

With 843 fresh infections, the

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Amritpal on run, 78 supporters held

CHANDIGARH, Mar 18:

The Punjab Government today launched a major crackdown against radical Sikh preacher and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh, with police arresting 78 members of an outfit headed by him, officials said.

The elusive preacher himself, however, gave the police a slip and

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Militants slip after shootout

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: After a brief gunfight with security forces in Mitranagar area of Pulwama dis-

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

trict, militants fled away.

A police officer said that a specific input was generated by police

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

SIA raids 8 locations in crowd funding by Sarjan Barkati

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) today conducted multiple raids across Kashmir regarding militant funding case.

The SIA said that this morning they conducted searches at 8 different places to investigate the tributaries and distributors of slush funds flowing through the known secessionist Maulavi Sarjan Barkati of South Kashmir for mobilising thousands onto streets during 2016 violent agitation, through his incendiary oratory.

The SIA said that they have registered a case (FIR No 02/23) related to crowd funding against Sarjan Barkati and others in which he has raised huge funds amounting more than Rs 1.5 crore, with his family making emotional appeals



SIA raids in South Kashmir amid tight security on Saturday.

—Excelsior/Sajad Dar

further use in sustaining the secessionist-militancy campaign.

"So far, SIA have identified 10 suspects whose involvement has surfaced in the initial investigation. The early morning raids spread over many districts of Kashmir are underway," the

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

stated. The dead have been identified as Nasrudin Ansari son of Islam Ansari of Khairawa Tola Pakri

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

4 from Bihar killed, 28 injured in bus accident at Pulwama

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: Four persons were killed and 28 others injured after a bus they were travelling in turned turtle at Awantipora area of Pulwama district today.

A bus bearing registration number JK02BA 1881 turned turtle on National Highway in Gooripora area of Awantipora in which around 23 passengers received injuries.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

All the injured were shifted to hospital for treatment. However, three of them succumbed on the way to the hospital while another died at SDH Pampore.

The dead have been identified as Nasrudin Ansari son of Islam Ansari of Khairawa Tola Pakri



A bus which met with an accident at Awantipora on Saturday. (UNI)

Harditerha West Champaran, Bihar, Raj Karan Das son of Shivu as Singhari Gobindpur Kishanganj, Khatia Pichhia, Bihar, Saleem Ali son of Mohammad Alauddin of Hakimnagar Chilhapara, Katihar, Telta Bihar and Kaisher Alam son of Sheo Majaqurul of Birnagar Sharifnagar Barsoiqhat, Katihar, Bihar.

Among 28 injured persons, five

with minor injuries were being treated at SDH Pampore who have been discharged while others were shifted to SMHS Srinagar, two to SKIMS Soura and 10 to Bone and Joint Hospital Srinagar where the condition of a few more is said to be critical.

Police have taken cognizance and started an investigation in this

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)



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