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Lok Sabha passes Rs 1.18 lakh cr budget, supplementary grants for J&K amid din

Cash assistance to Kashmir/Jammu migrants to continue

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 21: Lok Sabha today passed Rs 1,18,950 crore worth budget for Jammu and Kashmir with in half an hour amid din created by the Opposition members demanding constitution of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Adani issue with lone BJP MP from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma speaking for a couple of minutes followed by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Choudhary moving the budget for passing on the direction of Rajindra Agarwal, who was chairing proceedings of the House.

Lok Sabha adjourned till 11 am on March 23 after budget of Jammu and Kashmir for 2023-24 and supplementary grants for 2022-23 were passed as Opposition members continue to

shout slogans. The budget now has to be passed by the Rajya Sabha before it is released by the Union Finance Ministry. "This is the second consecutive year when the outlay for Jammu and Kashmir has exceeded Rs one lakh crore which is an indicator of our commitment to make Jammu and Kashmir a role model of development," noted Pankaj Choudhary while moving the proposals and passing of the budget on behalf of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Of Rs 1,18,950 crore worth budget, revenue expenditure will be Rs 77,009 crore and capital expenditure Rs 41,491 crore.

As soon as the House met again at 2 pm after an adjournment, Rajindra Agarwal, who was chairing the proceedings, asked BJP's Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament from Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha

to pass the budget was initiated. The budget for Jammu and Kashmir was passed by a voice vote amid din within half an hour of the proceedings.

Budget will ensure well-being of common man: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for Jammu and Kashmir's budget aimed at expanding UT's growth and ensuring well-being of the 'Aam

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Pankaj Choudhary moved the proposals related to the Union Territory's budget on behalf of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The bill, which was introduced on Monday, among other things, provided a thrust on housing in rural areas and water tap connections to 18.36 lakh households in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per a revised document pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir budget, vacant posts in the Union Territory will be filled up on fast track basis. It said 33,426 posts have been referred to recruitment agencies. Among them, 25,450 selections have been made including 2436 in Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited.

"Around 2,02,749 youth have been covered under various Self-employment Schemes and

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'Status quo maintained with China on LAC'

Situation under control, efforts on to fully stop terror incidents: Dwivedi

Excelsior Correspondent

Digiana here.

JAMMU, Mar 21: Northern Command chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi today said status quo is maintained



with China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and talks are going on at different levels, while the situation is under control in Jammu and Kashmir where efforts are on to stop terror incidents completely.

He was addressing a mega 'Veterans Sampark' rally which was attended by over 800 veterans and 'Veer Naris' at a unit of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles at

"The status quo is maintained with China on LAC. Talks are going on at different levels and all our formations are at a high level of operational preparedness," Lt Gen Dwivedi said.

The Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Army (PLA) have been locked in a standoff in multiple areas along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh since May 2020.

Lt Gen Dwivedi also talked about continuity of the ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC)

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)



Navratra Greetings To All Our Readers.

Teetwal to create history of sorts after 76 years

HM to make online address as idol of Goddess Sharda to be installed in temple at LoC today

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Mar 21: Creating a history of sorts, the idol of Goddess Sharda will be placed on sanctum sanctorum in newly constructed Sharda temple on Line of Control (LoC) in Teetwal area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district on the auspicious occasion of first Navratra (Navreh) tomorrow.

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah is likely to make an online address to the gathering from New Delhi during the installation of Murti in the temple which has been constructed after a gap of 76 years. The Murti will be installed on the sanctum Sanctorum with the chanting of Vedic hymns by renowned



Newly constructed temple at Teetwal in Karnah area near LoC.

scholars and Pandits who have reached Teetwal from Shingeri

Math in Karnataka where from the Murti of Goddess was brought.

Teetwal temple of Goddess was the base camp for world famous Sharda shrine prior to partition. The temple at Teetwal which was the base camp to the holy yatra of Mata Sharda and a Gurdwara which was existing nearby the temple on the bank of Krishan Ganga river were destroyed by raiders in 1947 and since then neither the suc-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Quake jolts J&K, North India

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 21: Strong tremors jolted Jammu and Kashmir and parts of north India tonight as an earthquake of magnitude 6.6 struck the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan.

Panic-stricken people rushed out of their homes and buildings as the earthquake struck around 10.20 pm and was also felt in J&K, Punjab and other parts of Northern region.

The earthquake was also felt in Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur,

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

NIA arrests journalist

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 21: National Investigation Agency (NIA) today arrested a journalist, Irfan Mehraj, from Srinagar who had worked as a researcher

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

for the human rights group, Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies (JKCCS).

An official said that he was called for questioning by the NIA last evening and was later flown to Delhi. A resident of

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'DPAP doesn't believe in divisive, communal politics'

Weak J&K not in country's interest: Azad

Not interested in contesting polls: Saddam

Gopal Sharma

BANIHAL, Mar 21: Claiming that Jammu and Kashmir is living under the shadow of China and Pakistan, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman and former J&K Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad today strongly crit-

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

icized the Central Government for 'illegally removing' Article 370 in 2019 and said a 'weak Jammu and Kashmir' is not in the interest of the nation.

Addressing a large public rally in this town in district Ramban today, Azad said he



DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a public rally at Banihal on Tuesday.

wants to see his country strong and prosper and move forward in the path of development, taking along Jammu and Kashmir. He said his party does not believe in communal and divisive politics but on inclusive development and peace in the entire country.

"I have returned to J&K as the situation became worse here after Article 370 was removed illegally and the historic and beautiful erstwhile State was bifurcated by this Government after 75 years of its accession to India, destroying our identity,"

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Sopore militant charge sheeted

NEW DELHI, Mar 21:

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed the first supplementary charge sheet against an Over Ground Worker of the proscribed Hizb-ul-Mujahideen terrorist outfit in the Jammu and Kashmir terrorism conspiracy case.

The charge sheet against Mohd Rafi Najar, a resident of Sopore and close associate of

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

DG CRPF visits South Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Mar 21:

CRPF Director General Sujoy Lal Thaosan visited South Kashmir today to review the operational preparedness of the force, officials said.

"Thaosan along with Inspector General Kashmir Ops Sector M S Bhatia visited South Kashmir to review the operational preparedness and deployment of troops," a of Central

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

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Prof Ranjan to be CIBS Leh VC

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Mar 21: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Professor Rajesh Ranjan for the post of Vice Chancellor of Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) - a Deemed to be University in Leh, Ladakh.

An order to this effect has been issued by the Central Government.

NSA invoked against Amritpal

CHANDIGARH, Mar 21:

The stringent National Security Act has been invoked against Amritpal Singh, the Punjab Government today told the High Court which rapped it over the "intelligence failure" that led to pro-Khalistan preacher giving police the slip.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court was hearing the habeas corpus petition filed by advocate Imaan Singh Khara, seeking the "release" of

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

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