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Grenade seized from blast site

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 30: Security forces have been put on high alert in the border belts and

* Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

along the Jammu-Pathankot highway following the blast that took place at village Sanyal near the International Border (IB) in Hiranagar tehsil of Kathua district last night.

A live grenade was recovered following a search of the area this morning.

"Information was received about a powerful blast around 9:30 pm on Wednesday. We (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Drug addict kills mother

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 30: A drug addict allegedly killed his mother in Sopore area of Baramulla district today.

The incident took place in

* Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

Dangarpura area of Sopore town last night. An official said that he was under the influence of drugs when he killed his mother.

"The killing is a pure case of influence of drugs. The accused is a staunch drug addict. He has confessed to the murder," a police officer said.

A case has been registered and the probe is on, he said.

The official said that he was alone living with this mother in the house.

Amritpal's aide booked in Kishtwar

Excelsior Correspondent
KISHTWAR, Mar 30: Police today booked Varinder Singh, suspected to be the

* Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

bodyguard of the fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh, under the Arms Act in connection with a gun licence issued to him in Kishtwar district, officials said.

The district administration also cancelled Varinder Singh's licence, and said it will probe how the former Army jawan, who

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

3,016 new COVID cases, highest in 6 months

NEW DELHI, Mar 30:

India saw a single-day rise of 3,016 fresh Coronavirus cases, the highest in nearly six months, while the active cases increased to 13,509, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated today.

A total of 3,375 cases were recorded on October 2 last year. The country's COVID-19 death toll has increased to 5,30,862 with 14 latest fatalities -- three reported by Maharashtra, two from Delhi and one reported by Himachal Pradesh in a span of 24 hours

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

HC seeks status, progress of trial in criminal cases against politicians

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 30: The High Court has directed the Home Departments of J&K and Ladakh and the trial courts for filing of status reports on the details of criminal cases against the politicians.

Chief Justice N Kotiwar Singh and Justice Sanjay Dhar have directed the Commissioner Secretaries of J&K and Ladakh and various Presiding Officers of the courts below to file their status report with regard to criminal cases against the politicians.

"The reports be compiled by the Registry in a tabular form and same be placed before the court on or before the next date of hearing", the DB said.

Court was hearing the PIL

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

Modi at top, Shah No. 2, CJJ at 4th, Rahul 15th, Sonia at 30th place

J&K LG breaks into top 25 in the list of 'Most Powerful Indians'

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, Mar 30: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha broke into top 25 in the list of 'Most Powerful Indians' released today by the Indian Express.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was at No. 1 position followed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud is at fourth position and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is at fifth place. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is at sixth spot.

BJP national president JP Nadda is at seventh slot followed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani is at ninth place and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval is at 10th place.

Significantly, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is at 15th spot behind West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who are at 13th and 14th

places respectively. Narendra Modi, 72, topping the list of 'Most Powerful Indians', the newspaper wrote: "Year Nine and Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains The Great Disruptor. The powerful outsider and the incumbent with the strongest shield against anti-incumbency as he heads his party's campaign for a third term next year. From toilets and gas cylinders to splitting Jammu and Kashmir, laying the foundation of the Ram temple to a new sport on global stage, Modi's power draws from his energy to shape the discourse--and reshape it as per his wish".

It said every election is fought in his name. Modi often encourages his Council of Ministers to talk and engage

with junior officers and staff and learn from their experiences. The G-20 summit in September will buttress his India-as-global leader image, right in time for countdown to Campaign 2024, it added.

On No. 2 Amit Shah, 58, the Indian Express said "Together with Narendra Modi, he is one half of the BJP's formidable Big Two. A master strategist, despite not being national president of the BJP for three years now, Shah's imprint has been visible in each of the BJP's big electoral victories--from Gujarat to Maharashtra to UP and the Northeast.

On Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, 63, the Indian (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

'Startup ecosystem taking over from separatist ecosystem'

Security forces have gained upper hand over militants, all top comdrs eliminated: LG

Change not only visible but people are feeling it

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 30: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said that security forces have gained upper hand over the militants due to good coordination among them and top commanders of all militant outfits have been eliminated in the Kashmir valley.

"Gone are the days when there used to be stone pelting in Kashmir. Now, schools and colleges are not closed. No bandh call is given at the behest of neighbour (Pakistan). Markets are not closed. The people want schools to run," Sinha said addressing the Rising India Summit organized by Network 18 followed by brief Question-Answer session.

Responding to a question on saboteurs within the administration, he quipped: "This is an old tradition. They are there, they have been there. Identifying and ousting them is an ongoing exercise".

It may be mentioned here that the administration has

sacked a number of Government officers/officials for their involvement in terror, separatist and other anti-national activities.

"The crime rate and militancy have witnessed a significant drop in Jammu and Kashmir and a start-up ecosystem is taking over from the 'separatist ecosystem' earlier," he declared.

The cinema halls have reopened. J&K Road Transport Corporation started night bus service and people can be seen enjoying Shikara ride in Dal Lake at late night hours as well, Sinha said.

"The common man in J&K is also dreaming like the citizens in the rest of the country. The youth are moving with new ambitions and it all happened because of the historic and brave decision of the Narendra Modi-led Government," he said.

Maintaining that change in the ground situation is not only visible, but the people are also feeling it, the Lieutenant Governor said the tricolour will

flutter on the rooftops of the houses in Jammu and Kashmir till eternity.

"The place which was known for other reasons like Pulwama (terror attack) sometime back witnessed 10,000 people rallying with the tricolour on August 13 and 14. That is a big change," he said.

Reiterating that August 5, 2019 brought about a historic change for Jammu and Kashmir due to the strong willpower of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha said this has allowed people from the region to dream and aspire like all other Indians.

"Following abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile State into two union Territories, J&K has witnessed massive improvement in agriculture and allied sectors, overall economy, infrastructure, security, women's empowerment, education, tourism, etc," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor revealed that he has learnt the use of some Kashmiri words (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

'India's borders fully secure'

J&K ushers in new era of peace, development: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, Mar 30:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said India's borders are "fully secure" and asserted that surgical strikes conducted by India have broken the back of terrorists.

Addressing a conclave here, he also said that whether it was the "standoff with China or any ill intentions from Pakistan", Indian Armed Forces have been giving a "befitting reply".

Singh further said that India has led the world on issues like terrorism and has been successful in garnering support to eliminate the menace.

"Our borders are fully secure. Whether it was the standoff with China or ill intentions from Pakistan, our armed forces have been giving a befitting reply, whenever required.

This is the result of strong will of the Government, the Defence Minister said.

He emphasised that countries, which use terrorism as a tool, are well aware of the fact that India never harms anyone unnecessarily, nor does it spare anyone who tries to hurt its unity, integrity and sovereignty.

He was speaking at the 'India Rising Conclave' organised by a leading television media network.

"This is a conclave on rising India. And, the idea of rising India has been described differently by different people. Some economists see it as a rising economy of India, while some sociologists describe it as betterment in social living. Some political scientists term the political stability in the country and strengthening of democratic values as rising India," Singh said.

However, some people speaking contrary to this too are also active, and for them, 'democracy seems to be on the wane in India', but such people

are very few and far between, he said.

From secure borders and self-reliance to a strong economy and transformed global image, India is rising as one of the "strongest countries" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Defence Minister said.

He termed the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as another example of the strong will of the Government, asserting that the Union Territory has ushered in a new era of peace and progress due to the decision.

"One can assess this from the fact that Congress party while carrying out its 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' did not face any difficulty. The Yatra left Kashmir without any issue," (Contd on page 9 Col 1)

PM to attend Combined Comdrs' conference tomorrow

NEW DELHI, Mar 30:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Combined Commanders' Conference-2023 and later flag off the Vande Bharat express train between Bhopal and New Delhi during his visit to Madhya Pradesh on April 1.

The PMO said the three-day conference of Military Commanders will be held from March 30 to April 1 on the theme "ready, resurgent, relevant".

During the conference, deliberations will be held over a spectrum of issues pertaining to national security, including jointness and theaterisation in the armed forces.

The armed forces' preparation and progress in defence (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

NIA charge sheets 2 in Udhampur blasts

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 30: Two Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) operatives, including a Pakistan-based handler, have been charge sheeted in connection with the blasts in two buses in Udhampur district in September last year, an official said today.

The charge sheet against Mohammad Amin Bhat alias 'Abu Khubaib', a resident of Doda district, who is currently operating from Pakistan and trying to revive terror activities in the Jammu region, and Mohd Aslam Sheikh alias 'Adil' was filed in a special court on Tuesday, a National Investigation Agency (NIA) spokesperson said.

Bhat and Sheikh were charged under the Indian Penal (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

'Loss making undertakings causing substantial drain on exchequer'

Net worth of 13 PSUs in J&K completely eroded by accumulated losses: CAG

Mohinder Verma
JAMMU, Mar 30: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has pointed out that net worth of 13 out of 20 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been completely eroded by the accumulated losses and all the loss making undertakings are causing substantial drain on public exchequer.

In its report for the year ended March 31, 2022 tabled in the Parliament recently, the supreme audit institution of the country has pointed out that there were 17 PSUs that incurred losses during the year

2021-22 as per their latest finalised accounts but the losses incurred by these PSUs decreased to Rs 186.28 crore in 2021-22 from Rs 1,354.96 crore in 2019-20.

Out of total loss of Rs 186.28 crore incurred by 17 PSUs in 2021-22, loss of Rs 177.70 crore was attributed to seven PSUs, which incurred loss of more than Rs five crore as per their latest information. The majority of the loss for the year 2019-20 is attributable to the loss of Rs 1,139.41 crore reported by Jammu & Kashmir Bank

Limited. The bank reported profit in its operations in the year 2020-21 of Rs 428.45 crore and in the year 2021-22 of Rs 501.56 crore.

The PSUs (other than power sector) that incurred losses of more than Rs 5 crore were J&K Road Transport Corporation (Rs 117.62 crore), J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (Rs 20.54 crore), J&K Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited (Rs (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Orange alert sounded for March 31

MeT forecasts rain, snowfall in J&K

Fayaz Bukhari/ Gopal Sharma
SRINAGAR/ JAMMU, Mar 30: The widespread moderate rain and snow on the higher reaches has been predicted by the Meteorological Department in Jammu and Kashmir during next two days.

A MeT official forecasted isolated heavy rain and thunder and lightning across Kashmir on March 31. He said that there was forecast for scattered light rain and thunder over Kashmir in the next 24 hours.

"For subsequent two days, he said, there was possibility of widespread moderate rain, thunder and snow (mainly over

upper reaches). Besides orange alert has been sounded for March 31 for isolated heavy rain thunder/ lightning and disruption of traffic on Jammu-Srinagar Highway," the MeT department said.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature has recorded some increase at most places. Srinagar recorded a low of 6.6°C against 5.5°C the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for city.

Qazigund recorded a low of 4.6°C against 2.6°C the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the town.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 0.8°C against minus 0.3°C the previous night and it was 0.8°C below normal for the

tourist resort. Kokernag recorded a low of 4.9°C against 4.2°C the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the place.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.0°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 0.8°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 5.7°C against 4.3°C the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the town.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 29.4 degree Celsius and minimum 18.5 degree C while Leh town recorded minimum temperature of minus 3.0 degree Celsius and maximum 11.4 degree C today.

Panchayat, Block level plans subsumed in DP

J&K Govt switches to scheme based budgeting system under DP, UTLSPs

Bivek Mathur
JAMMU, Mar 30: In a bid to have a clear distinction under the District Plan (DP) and Union Territory Level Sectoral Plans (UTLSPs), the J&K Government today announced to switch over to the scheme based budgeting system from the first day of the financial year 2023-24.

In an order, the Government has announced the schemes that will constitute the District Plan for the financial year 2023-24, beginning April 1st, 2023.

"The District Plan will include various schemes such as Area Development Scheme, United Scheme, NFB Scheme, Aspirational Block Development Scheme, Aspirational Panchayat Development Scheme, Samridh

Seema Yojana, Back to Village Programme, Infrastructure Up-gradation Scheme, Border Area Development Scheme, Constituency Development Scheme, and MPLAD Scheme," read an order issued by the Finance Department.

The order said that the Panchayat Level Plans and Block Level Plans will be subsumed in the District Plan, while the UT level plan will comprise resources related to functions that are not devolved to the PRIs or are inter-district plans.

It said the DDCs will be responsible for compiling and submitting work plans/action plans in consultation with PRIs under the above-mentioned schemes as per the 11th Schedule of the Constitution of India. The work plans of each district will cover 29 matters

specified in the 11th Schedule on the basis of need assessment analysis.

Additionally, the order clarified that Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in districts will also be included in the District Sector planning and developmental process for monitoring purposes.

"NABARD-funded schemes implemented in districts will form part of the works plan of the departments concerned under the UT plan from April 1, 2023," read the order.

The order further said that the ongoing schemes under ULB grants will be the first charge under "Infrastructure Up-gradation Scheme."

"All the DDCs and departments will align their action (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Generally cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 29.4 Degree C
Min: 18.5 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 75.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 31.0 per cent
Sunset on Friday: 06:48 p.m.
Sunrise on Saturday: 06:21 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 19.3 Degree C
Min: 6.6 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 65.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 43.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 14 Degree C
Min: -3.0 Degree C

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