'Seema Bhawans' to come up in Poonch and Rajouri

JAMMU, JUNE 30 /--/ Starting the process for construction of 'Seema Bhawans' (border shelters) along the Line of Control (LoC), authorities in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri convened separate meetings to remove the bottlenecks in the process of land acquisition.

The 'Seema Bhawans' will provide accommodation to the residents of border villages who are forced to flee their homes during shelling across the LoC by Pakistan. In a meeting on Friday, district development commissioner of Poonch Mohammad Aijaz Asad directed officers to complete the process for identification of land for 'Seema Bhawans', an official spokesperson said. Asad asked the officers to identify land for the shelters at safe locations, the spokesperson added. Currently, the border residents are accommodated in government buildings like educational institutions when they are displaced during shelling by Pakistan Rangers. Construction of bunkers was also discussed during the meeting. Officials in the meeting said most locations for the construction of underground bunkers had been handed over to the roads and buildings department and the process for making entries of these identified sites in the revenue record had been initiated.

Asad directed the concerned revenue officials to complete the process of handing over the remaining bunker locations for construction, the spokesman said. The community bunkers are being constructed in safe zones near colleges, schools, hospitals and police posts, which are easily accessible during ceasefire violations, he said. In the neighbouring Rajouri district, additional district development commissioner A S Chib reviewed the status of finalisation of land for 'Seema Bhawans' and the tendering process by the public works department (PWD) for construction of bunkers, a spokesperson said. The proposals for construction of the border shelters submitted by the sub-divisional administration of Nowshera, Sunderbani and Manjakote were also reviewed in the meeting, he said.

The spokesperson added that the superintending engineer of the PWD, Rajouri, had been designated the nodal officer for execution of the work on 'Seema Bhawans'. The district administration of Rajouri had initiated construction of 102 individual bunkers and 10 community bunkers in Nowshera as a pilot project with convergence of resources. All the individual bunkers were handed over to families in March while the community bunkers are being completed. The individual bunkers can accommodate 10-15 people and the community bunkers have a capacity of 40-50 people. More than 14,000 individual and community bunkers are being constructed along the LoC and the International Border (IB) in the Jammu region following the approval from the Union home ministry.

J&K Police claim to have exposed scam at IGNOU centre in Kathua

JAMMU, JUNE 30 /--/ The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police claimed today to have exposed a major scam at an IGNOU centre in Kathua district, where nearly 4,000 students were issued bogus degrees without appearing in examinations.

The scam at the Indira Gandhi National Open University centre was unearthed after the police received an input that a person - identified as Prashant Bandari - and his associates were involved in fraudulently conducting examinations and giving admissions to students at the centre established in Billawar town in 2014-15, a crime branch spokesman said. "About 4,000 students have been shown taken admission through the centre and till date no examination has been conducted by this centre.

The students enrolled through the centre have been shown appeared in examinations and degrees issued to them," he said. The centre runs two admission sessions - in January and July - and two examinations sessions - in June and December - every year with enrolment of 800 to 1,200 students in each session, the spokesman said. Citing the preliminary investigation, he said bogus attendance sheets and answer sheets were submitted to IGNOU using the centre codes of Katra, Kishtwar, Chatroo and Paddar.

He said thousands of rupees were collected from each candidate and the money was embezzled through bank accounts opened in the name of the chairman and a non-existent coordinator. The honorarium of faculty members and counsellors was also swindled by Bandari, his associate Bhopinder Gupta and others in connivance with a few IGNOU officials. "In this scandal, officials of IGNOU and post offices are involved in preparing fake answer sheets at regional centres," the spokesman said. (PTI)

Two Gujarat fishermen released by Pak, steps taken for return home

VADODARA, JUNE 30 /--/ Two fishermen from Gujarat, who were languishing in a Pakistan jail, have been released and are on their way home, a state government official said today.

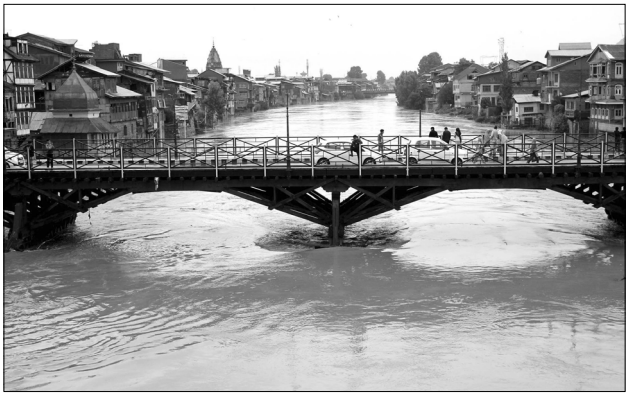
The fishermen- Danabhai Arjanbhai Chauhan from Paldi in Una tehsil of Gir Somnath district and Ramabhai Gohil from Kanzotar in Sutrapada tehsil in Saurashtra- were released from Pakistan prison on Friday evening, the official said. "Pakistan rangers handed over both these fishermen to the Border Security Force (BSF) at Wagah border on Friday evening. Thereafter, Amritsar district collector got them admitted to a city-based hospital for treatment," Kiran Dave, an official of the state fisheries department, said.

"We received the two fishermen at midnight in Amritsar after completing all the formalities. Considering their health condition, we decided to fly them back to Gujarat. They will reach Gujarat by around 3.30 pm today," Dave added. While Chauhan is suffering from cancer, Gohil had an attack of paralysis while in prison. Chauhan was apprehended by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency for allegedly entering the neighbouring country's waters on May 3, 2017 while Gohil was nabbed earlier, on March 4, 2017. The external affairs ministry had informed the commissioner of fisheries, Gujarat, about their imminent release.

The ministry had asked the commissioner to make arrangements for their transport back to the state. Talking to news agency PTI over phone from Amritsar, Chauhan said: "Both of us were kept in a separate cell in a Karachi jail in Pakistan and did not get the required medical help. Despite my serious illness, I was asked to do the tasks like watering a garden and cleaning utensils." "Now, I am very happy and delighted to be back in my country," he said and thanked Swaraj for his release.

Chauhan's wife Rudiben Chauhan had written to Swaraj last month, seeking help to bring back her ailing husband. Gohil, who suffered a paralysis attack, is wheelchair-bound. (PTI)

Farm workers planting paddy at a field near Mohali on Saturday.



People watching the swallowing waters of river Jehlum from Habba Kadal as it crossed the danger mark and marooned the low lying areas in Srinagar due to incessant rains since past 3 days, on Saturday.

TN Guv Purohit calls for following eco-friendly path to preserve nature

CHENNAI, JUNE 30 /--/ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit today called for following an eco-friendly path to preserve nature and "bequeath" its resources to the future generations.

"It is our duty to preserve nature and bequeath its resources to succeeding generations in a manner that is sustainable, by following an eco-friendly path," Purohit said. In his address after inaugurating the International Environmental Day, Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Tree Plantation Day Celebrations at Government Higher Secondary School here, Purohit said India's agricultural practices were always sustainable. "Our ancestors knew the practice of sustainable development. That is the reason why India has had a continuing civilisation for more than 5000 years. The agricultural practices were sustainable," he noted.

While many technological innovations in the last two centuries have improved the standard of living, "it is important to draw the line so that we do not exceed limits," the Governor said. "Today the use of petrol and petroleum products, the use of plastics and mindless dependence on artificial chemicals have resulted in serious environmental damage. That is why the nations of the world met at Paris in 2015 to control carbon emissions," Purohit said. Global warming was emerging as a major problem and threatens to wipe out large populations if left uncontrolled, he added.

Mere enjoyment and economic prosperity without sustainable development will be short-lived and short-sighted, he said, adding Indian festivals like Pongal, Chhath and Ganga Aarthi "teach us how to respect nature." Purohit also listed out various initiatives undertaken in Raj Bhavan, his official residence, to "safeguard mother nature." "Lights and fans and air-conditioners are switched off when not needed. The dry leaves that are strewn over the huge area of Raj Bhavan are collected and converted into vermi compost," he said, adding the compost will now be distributed to schools to encourage children to use organic manure. (PTI)

Sexual assault: Kerala nun to go ahead with legal action against Bishop

KOTTAYAM, JUNE 30 /--/ A nun, who accused a Roman Catholic Bishop of sexually assaulting her, today said she would go ahead with legal action against the top priest.

The nun told newspersons here that she would go ahead with legal action against the Bishop but declined to speak further on the matter. In her complaint to the Kottayam district police chief, the nun has alleged that Bishop of Jalandhar diocese of Roman Catholic Church had sexually abused her multiple times at a small town near here four years ago. The nun alleged that she was subjected to sexual abuse 13 times. She has said that she was abused for the first time in 2014 at a guest house near an orphanage in Kuravilangad region in the district. The nun claimed that she had then complained to the church authorities about the abuse, but no action was taken. The victim said the unfavourable approach of the Church authorities towards her grievances forced her to lodge a police complaint in the matter.

Supporters of the Bishop have rejected the charges against the priest. They said the nun filed the police complaint after a priest, who is also an official of the Jalandhar diocese, lodged a complaint with police against her relatives on the charges of threatening the Bishop. In his complaint, the priest has alleged that the relatives of the nun threatened to kill the Bishop after he ordered a probe against her on the basis of a complaint by wife of a person. Based on the complaints of the nun and the priest, the police have launched an investigation.

New Andhra DGP takes charge

AMARAVATI, JUNE 30 /--/ Ram Prawesh Thakur took charge as Director General of Police (Head of Police Force) of Andhra Pradesh.

Thakur succeeds M Malakondaiah, who retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation. Prior to becoming the DGP, Thakur, an IPS officer of 1986 batch, was Director General of Anti-Corruption Bureau. Chief secretary (in-charge) Anil Chandra Punetha issued an order appointing Thakur as DGP this morning, putting an end to speculation that another officer of the 1986 batch Gautam Damodar Sawang was set to become the Police Chief.

State Notes

Army jawans robbed at railway station

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30 /--/ Two Army jawans were robbed of all their belongings, including their clothes, while they were sleeping in the retiring room of the Old Delhi railway station today, railway sources said. The incident took place at 4 am today while the jawans were sleeping and the thieves ran away with their suitcases, identity cards, watches, mobiles and even their clothes, they said. An FIR has been registered by the Government Railway Police at the Old Delhi railway station. The Delhi division of railways has ordered an inquiry into the matter, the sources said.

Mob attacks health officials in UP village

MUZAFFARNAGAR, JUNE 30 /--/ A mob attacked a team of health officials, which had collected milk samples from local vendors to test for purity, in Muzaffarnagar's Naya Gaon village, the police said today. The mob attacked the health department team on Friday evening and destroyed the samples it had collected from two milk vendors Santar Pal and Amar Pal, the police said. According to health officer Vineet Kumar, who led the team to Naya Gaon, Santar and Amar opposed the sampling. The duo and its supporters attacked the health officials and destroyed the samples that the team had collected, he said. The officials sustained minor injuries in the attack, the police said. Twenty people have been booked in the case and Santar Pal and Amar Pal have been arrested, they said.

Woman beaten to death in attack over financial dispute in UP

MUZAFFARNAGAR, JUNE 30 /--/ A woman was beaten to death and two members of her family were injured when five people allegedly attacked them over a monetary dispute in Shamli district, police said today. The incident took place on Friday night at Masawi village under Thana Bhawan Police Station area, circle officer Arvind Singh Rathor said. Samina was beaten to death and two family members injured when they attacked by five people over a monetary dispute, he said. A case was registered and the body was sent for post-mortem, the CO said, adding that a search was underway for the accused.

Flood alert sounded in central Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30 /--/ Intermittent rains continued in Kashmir today with authorities sounding a flood alert in central Kashmir, even as water levels started receding in the southern parts of the valley. The authorities had on Friday issued a flood alert in south Kashmir. Today they issued a flood alert for low-lying areas of the central Kashmir, including the summer capital here, and asked the people to be alert and prepared for evacuation. The schools across the valley were closed for today in view of the inclement weather. "The gauge at Ram Munshi Bagh crossed the flood declaration of 18 feet and was flowing at 20.87 feet at 10 am," an official of the irrigation and flood control department said. The official said the people living in areas along the embankments of Jhelum river and other streams and in low-lying areas of central Kashmir were advised to remain vigilant.

Ex-deputy mayor of Luknow, 3 others get life for role in Aliganj fake encounter

LUCKNOW, JUNE 30 /--/ A local court today sentenced former deputy mayor of Lucknow and three others to life imprisonment for their involvement in a fake police encounter in Aliganj area here around 24 years ago, in which a person was killed. Ex-deputy mayor of Lucknow Abhay Seth, then general secretary of Aliganj traders' union, Ashok Mishra and two constables--Ram Chander Singh Chandel and Shivbhushan Tiwari--were convicted by the court. The then station officer of Aliganj, D D S Rathore and constable Munshilal were also charge sheeted in the case, but they died during trial. Awarding the punishment, the court said the prosecution has succeeded to prove that the four were involved in the fake encounter. Aliganj police had claimed that it had gunned down a gangster Gopal Mishra on February 26, 1994 in an encounter.

The then Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh had directed the CB-CID on December 11, 1997 to register an FIR in the case. In its probe, the CB-CID found that it was a fake encounter and submitted the charge sheet against all the accused under various sections of IPC and the Arms Act. The court framed charges against the accused on October 7, 2008 and started the trial. The prosecution produced 13 witnesses, including the mother of the deceased who was an eyewitness. According to the prosecution, Ashok was involved in the construction business and had built a complex in Aliganj. Influenced by him, Gopal also started to live with him.

BJP set to become single largest party in Maharashtra Legislative Council

MUMBAI, JUNE 30 /--/ The ruling BJP is set to become the single largest party in the Maharashtra Legislative Council after the biennial elections to eleven seats in the Upper House of the state legislature on July 16.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) had last week announced election to the 11 EMLA (Elected by MLAs) constituency seats.

Of the 11 members whose term of membership will end on July 27, four are from the NCP, three from the Congress, two of the BJP and one each from the Shiv Sena and the Peasants and Workers Party of India (PWP). Considering their numerical strength in the Legislative Assembly, the BJP can comfortably win five seats, the Shiv Sena three, while Congress-NCP can safely win one seat each and can also help sitting PWP MLC Jayant Patil to retain his seat. The current party-wise strength in the 78 member legislative council is as follows: NCP 20, Congress 18, BJP 20, Sena 11, JD-U one, PWP-I one, PRP one, Independents six.

The 11 members whose term ends on July 27 are: Council Deputy Chairman Manikrao Thakare, Sanjay Dutt and Sharad Ranpise (all Congress), Sunil Tatkare, Jaideorao Gaikwad, Narendra Patil and Amarsing Pandit (NCP), Vijay Girkar and Minister for Dairy Development Mahadev Jankar (BJP), Anil Parab (Shiv Sena) and Jayant Patil (PWP). As per the poll schedule announced by the ECI, the last date for filing nominations is July 5. The scrutiny of nomination papers will be taken up on July 6 and last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is July 9.

Polling will be held on July 16, while counting of votes and results will be declared in the evening on the same day. PTI

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E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO.: 07/18-19 Date: 29.06.2018

Principal CMM, Metro Railway, Kolkata-700071 on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for following items already uploaded in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Tender No.	Brief Description	Due Date
03185035	28mm Dia Galvanised Anchor Stud Bolts with Nuts 262mm.	23.07.2018 14.00 Hrs.
02171386	220V, 110 Cell, 250AH Lead Acid Stationary Battery	30.07.2018 14.00 Hrs.

Interested Tenderers may visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification/quantity of the tenders and submit bids online only. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted.

N.B.: Prospective Bidders may regularly visit *www.ireps.gov.in* to participate in low value tenders of this railway up to Rs. 25 Lakhs.

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