

Court orders withholding of salary of HS, SSP
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 12: Principal District Judge Kathua with the power of MACT Court today directed Treasury Officer Darbar Move Civil Secretariat and District Treasury Officer Srinagar not to honour the salary bills of Commissioner Secretary Home and SSP PCR Srinagar.

"It is very strange that the widow and children of a policeman ASI Shuker Din, who got

Modi opened up space for terrorists: Rahul

WASHINGTON, Sept 12: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi today accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "massively opening up" space for terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to an increase in violence.

Addressing students at the University of California in Berkeley, Gandhi said the decision by Modi to have a political tie-up with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was a "strategic mistake".

8 SEs, X-Ens shifted
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 12: Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department has ordered transfers and postings of 8 Incharge Superintending Engineers (SEs) and Executive Engineers (Xens).

According to the order issued, Vinod Gupta, Executive Director, CCDU, holding additional charge of SE SMC Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Incharge SE, SMC Srinagar. Arun Kishore, Incharge SE JKSPDC Srinagar

Centre hikes DA by 1 pc

NEW DELHI, Sept 12: The Centre today increased dearness allowance and dearness relief by 1 per cent to 5 per cent, benefiting 50 lakh employees and 61 lakh pensioners.

This decision was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

"Release of additional installment of DA is an increase of 1 per cent over the existing rate of 4 per cent of the basic pay/pension, to compensate for

Rohingya nabbed with narcotics
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 12: Police today arrested a Rohingya national and recovered 10 kilogram narcotics from his possession.

Police said a special naka laid by police teams arrested the Rohingya national from village Chowadi and recovered 10 kilograms "ganja" in very purified form from his possession, which he had brought from outside the State for selling among the youth.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

'Pak not interested in peace, borders will get hi-tech fencing' Rajnath tough on Rohingyas, leaves 35-A to SC; directs for ULB, Panchayat polls

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Sept 12: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said today that the Centre would respect sentiments of all three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh on Article 35-A and declined to comment whether the Government of India would file counter affidavit on the issue, which is before the Supreme Court and scheduled for listing after Diwali festival in October. Rajnath, however, came hard on illegal immigrants settled in Jammu including Rohingyas saying their stay here was 'illegal' and the Government was working way out to act against them.

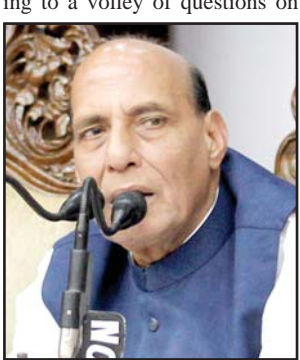
The Home Minister said he

*** Watch video on**
www.excelsiornews.com

has taken up with Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti the issue of holding elections to Municipalities and Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir, which was brought to his notice by some delegations, which met

him during his four-day visit to the State.

Addressing a press conference before returning to New Delhi, the Home Minister, replying to a volley of questions on



the issue of Article 35-A, which defines State Subject Law of the State, and his yesterday's statement on the subject in Srinagar, made it clear that no attempt should be made to misinterpret his statement.

"I have said sentiments of all three regions of the State including Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh will be taken into account. Further, the matter is sub-judice (as the issue was pending in the Apex Court)," he

said and refused to be drawn into the controversy.

However, responding to another question as to whether the Centre would file counter affidavit in the Supreme Court on Article 35-A, Rajnath refused to give categorical reply saying "a Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court. What happens, you will keep getting the information".

Asserting that the Centre has taken serious note of illegal immigrants settled at various parts of the country including Jammu, Rajnath said the Government was going to take strong action against Rohingyas.

"We are working on this direction," he said but refused to elaborate as to how and when the Rohingyas would be deported. However, he said he was not ruling out security threat to the country from Rohingyas.

On his talks with various delegations during four-day visit in Jammu and Kashmir and whether separatists were stakeholders to Kashmir problem, Rajnath reiterated that he had come to the State with 'open

mind' and made it clear that anybody who wants to meet him was welcome.

Embarrassment for Govt as HM leaves Guest House

The State Government especially Ruling BJP had to face major embarrassment when Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh shifted out of the Government Guest House to Hari Palace Hotel last night due to bad condition of the room he had been allotted.

Reports said that when Rajnath went inside the room last evening, it was found unfit for the stay.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

"Whether separatists are stakeholders or not, you can decide," he remarked.

Rajnath said he has taken up the issue of holding elections to Municipalities and Panchayats with the Chief

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Vohra returns SVC, SIC panels; State Govt likely to press again

Vital information about candidates not shared with Raj Bhavan

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, Sept 12: Governor, N Vohra has returned the proposals of the Chief Minister - led selection panel for appointment of members to two important statutory bodies - the State Vigilance Commission (SVC) and State Information Commission (SIC) and raised serious questions over the entire selection process.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR, "Raj Bhavan has expressed its displeasure over the manner in which both the proposals were being pushed by the State Government, without doing proper ground-work and in both the proposals, persons who failed to comply with the provisions of the SVC and SIC rules had been recommended", adding, "in both cases, vital information pertaining to the candidates hadn't been shared with the Governor thereby putting question mark over the entire process".

"What is particularly intriguing that the recommendations had been made by the selection

panel headed by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti and comprised former Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, who is leader of largest opposition party in the State. Even the panel was also perhaps not apprised of the full credentials of the candidates, whose names were proposed for the two institutions", sources asserted.

Elaborating over the queries submitted by Raj Bhavan pertaining to the State Vigilance Commission proposal, sources said, "the panel has recommended the name of P L Gupta for the post of Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), but there are issues pertaining to his tenure and eligibility".

"As per the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir State Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2011, person being appointed as CVC should have a tenure of three years before attaining superannuation at the age of 65. However, Gupta's age was 62 years and 12 days, when the selection panel had recommended his name for the post", sources said.

Sources further added, "there

were serious allegations against R S Jasrotia, an IFS officer, whose name had been recommended by the panel for the post of Vigilance Commissioner (VC). The officer was facing an inquiry for manipulation of his own Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) for 1988-89 and 1989-90".

Sources said, "Raj Bhavan has sought the exact details of the charge sheet and the inquiry report against Jasrotia and also wanted to know how such a serious inquiry had been closed down on some technical grounds".

"Even the Supreme Court on September 5, this year while hearing a petition filed in 2015 challenging the appointment of the incumbent CVC, K V Chaudhary, and Vigilance Commissioner (VC) T M Bhasin by the Central Government had categorically stated that person appointed to the posts of Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners should meet the criteria of having "impeccable integrity". The recommendations made by the

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Key 'accused' enjoying one after another prime posting

Departmental enquiry into RDA scam being delayed despite several HC orders

No taker of SC ruling on officers facing serious charges

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Sept 12: Despite numerous directions from the Division Bench of the State High Court, the Government is soft-paddling on completion of departmental enquiry against senior IAS officer, who is involved in the much-publicized Rajouri Development Authority (RDA) scam. Moreover, the officer is continuously enjoying one after another prime posting in bla-

tant violation of Supreme Court's landmark judgment, which debars holding of important posts by the officers facing corruption and other serious charges.

The Rajouri Development Authority scam came to the fore in the year 2009 when the State Vigilance Organization received a complaint highlighting execution of works worth lakhs of rupees in blatant violation of the laid down guidelines in order to confer undue benefit upon the contractors and obtain pecuniary benefits by the then CEO and other officers.

Following completion of verification into the complaint Vigilance Organization, while establishing irregularities, wrote to the General

Administration Department on July 3, 2015 requesting for initiation of regular departmental action against the delinquent officer Mohammad Javed Khan, the then CEO Rajouri Development Authority and presently Excise Commissioner J&K.

This scam also became the subject matter of the ongoing Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the issue of corruption in the State and following intervention from the Division Bench of the High Court the General Administration Department vide Communication No.GAD(Ser)/IAS/ 104/2016 dated December 20, 2016 initiated Regular Departmental Action against Mohammad Javed Khan, who was then posted as Custodian

General J&K. Accordingly, Mohammad Javed Khan was directed to explain his position within 15 days positively failing which the action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him. As there was no reply from the officer within the given time-frame, the General Administration Department vide Communication No. GAD(Ser)IAS/104/2016 dated January 19, 2017 sent a reminder to the officer with the mention that requisite reply shall be furnished immediately.

Much to the surprise of the General Administration Department, the officer again chose to ignore the reminder prompting the former to once

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

SVO books 9, conducts raids

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 12: The State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) today registered a case and conducted raids at various place in Jammu and Rajouri districts in connection with allotment of 600 kanals land near Nandni tunnel to some private persons.

An official handout issued by the SVO said it has registered case against nine persons including Sachin Dev Singh, then Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Jammu, Shashi Khajuria, Secretary, Dharmarath Trust Council and beneficiaries Ranjeev Gupta son of Chajju Ram Gupta of Talab Tillo, Chetan Nagpal son of Davinder Nagpal, Nitin Nagpal and Ritin Nagpal sons of Kewal Nagpal,

600 kanals Nandni land scam

Sahil Nagpal son of Pradeep Nagpal, Sanjeev Nagpal and Rajan Nagpal sons of Sita Ram Nagpal, all residents of Gandhi Nagar.

The case has been registered under Prevention of Corruption Act, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B RPC in FIR No. 35/2017.

*** Watch video on**
www.excelsiornews.com

After registration of case, the Vigilance teams conducted simultaneous raids at houses of the involved persons at various places in Jammu and Rajouri district and recovered incriminating documents pertaining to the case, the hand out said.

Investigations conducted by

the SVO revealed that the State Government had allotted State land measuring 600 kanals situated at village Junakha Near Nandni tunnel in favour of Rani Sahiba wife of late Ram Singh Surgwasi with the conditions that the land should not be used for construction, cutting of trees and grazing of cattle etc.

The status of the property was "State land".

The record further revealed that the land in question was under the ownership of "Sri Sarkar Doulatmand" with the name of "Deudi Mabarak Sri Raja Sahib Bahadur Ram Singh Sahib Soragwasi" as cultivator mentioned in it.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

HC issues contempt notice to CE R&B Srinagar air, noise pollution beyond permissible limits

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Sept 12: The Pollution Control Board (PCB) has informed the High Court that the air and noise pollution levels of Srinagar city are beyond permissible limits. The Court rapped the PCB for not regulating the pollution levels in the city and also issued contempt notice to Chief Engineer R&B Department for non-compliance of Court orders.

Court observed "what is surprising is the Boulevard area which shows the quality of air beyond permissible limits and no action plan has been submitted. We are surprised that why the air quality in Srinagar has

deteriorated over the years. No steps have been taken by PCB despite they were duty bound to do so under various enactments."

Court in the report found that all no horn zones have noise levels beyond permissible limits and directed adequate measures have to be adopted for which the legislation is already in place.

Response from Chief Engineer R&B was required with regard to suggestion already made by SSP traffic to ease-out the traffic mess. But no report has been submitted in that respect as also nobody was present on behalf of the department

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Cong misrule, Nehruvian blunders behind K-problem: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, Sept 12: Soon after Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of massively opening up space for the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister and senior BJP leader Dr Jitendra Singh said that the absence of peace in the Valley was a cumulative outcome of nearly half a century misrule of Congress party beginning with the infamous "Nehruvian blunders", which were partly motivated by former PM Nehru's "misguided personal weakness for Sheikh Abdullah."

Responding to Gandhi's comment that Modi destroyed

People's Democratic Party (PDP) by making alliance with them, Dr Jitendra Singh said, whatever he (Rahul Gandhi) has said, it doesn't reflect the popular sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir or even people of India at large. In fact, it is the Congress which has been, over the years, forging opportunistic alliances alternatively with one or the other regional party in Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters during his visit with Home Minister Rajnath Singh in Jammu, Dr Jitendra Singh said the BJP-led Governments both at the Centre and in the State have taken upon itself a "herculean task" of restoring normalcy in the State.

"On the contrary, the absence of peace in Kashmir was a cumulative outcome of the misrule of the Congress for nearly half-a-century both at the Centre and in the State and also outcome of a series of blunders committed dur-

ing the Congress rule beginning from the infamous Nehruvian blunders in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"And therefore, the BJP-led government, both at the Centre and in the state, has taken upon itself a herculean task of restoring normalcy and we are very well heading in that direction. We are, in fact, redeeming the sins that were committed by the Congress over the last five decades," he added.

"Whatever he (Rahul) said doesn't reflect the popular sentiments of the people of J-K or even people of India at large. In fact, the youth are very keen on joining the developmental part led by Modi. Look at the statistics, we have so many toppers from the militancy-affected areas. They know that their future lies with this caravan led by Modi and they don't want to miss out on these opportunities," he added.

Traffic on highway partially restored, stranded LMVs cleared

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Sept 12: Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained suspended for the second consecutive day today even as stranded light motor vehicles, which along with heavy vehicles were stuck on the road since yesterday following massive landslide and consequent damage to a bridge at Morh Passi, near Balli Nallah in Udhampur, were cleared this evening.

Neither the stranded heavy vehicles were allowed to move nor was the fresh traffic released from Jammu to Srinagar and vice-versa as the

Alternate route being made near damaged bridge

Engineers of Gammon India Ltd could not fully analyze extent of damage to the bridge from visual inspection.

According to IG Traffic Jagjeet Kumar, only light motor vehicles will be allowed to move

*** Pic on page 6.**
Video on
www.excelsiornews.com

from Jammu and Srinagar tomorrow that too in a regulated way as the bridge is not safe for heavy traffic. "For allowing

heavy traffic, a diversion on the Valley side near the damaged bridge is being created, which will take around a week's time to be developed," he added.

A large number of trucks are stranded on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and it will take a few days to clear all, particularly loaded ones.

This morning, stranded light vehicles were allowed to cross the bridge after debris of the landslide was removed but the movement was stopped again

after a chaos like situation emerged there owing to massive traffic jam, particularly by the roadside parked trucks from Chenani to the landslide site.

Meanwhile, the damaged bridge was again got inspected by the Engineers of Gammon India Ltd, who conveyed that only light vehicles and heavy traffic in a controlled manner (20 kmph and one vehicle at a time) may be permitted with constant monitoring the settlements, if any.

"The minor bridge at Km 76+075 stands damaged due to the landslide. Total structure has been filled with loose earth and

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Braving threats, 185 J&K youth join Army

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 12: Over 180 youth from Jammu and Kashmir today donned olive uniform and took oath to serve and defend nation at a colorful passing out parade ceremony here in Srinagar.

*** Watch video on**
www.excelsiornews.com

Defence spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalra said 185 young soldiers from J&K passed out from Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) Regimental Centre here at Rangreth on city outskirts. "Recruit Course Serial number 110, on having completed one year of strenuous training was attested today at a glittering parade at the Bana Singh Parade

Ground of JAKLI Regimental Centre," he said.

The passing out parade, depicting graduation of a recruit

young soldier, was reviewed by Lt General Satish Dua, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence and Colonel of the JAKLI Regiment Centre and was attended by over 1000 parents and relatives of young soldiers besides number of civil and military dig-

naries, the spokesman said. Speaking to reporters, Lt General SK Dua said it was a

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)



A Kashmiri youth shakes hand with an Army officer after passing out parade in Srinagar on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Shakeel

Download Mobile Apps of Daily Excelsior for Android and IOS

Download on the Google Play Store | Download on the App Store

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/apps/>

INSIDE

- Non-performing GoMs ...Page 8
- Recruitment rules in Forest Dept ...Page 8
- PDP playing crucial role for sustainable peace: Madni ...Page 3
- RSS shouldn't distract public attention over Art 35A: Soz ...Page 3
- Industrial activity stalled due to non-issuance of package: BBIA ...Page 5
- NC terms autonomy only solution, VHP's concern over increasing discrimination with Jammu ...Page 7
- Indian women's hockey team holds Belgium 2-2 draw ...Page 14

WEATHER

JAMMU : Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 32.7 Degree C
Min: 23.2 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 78.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 58.0 per cent
Sunset on Wednesday: 06.42 p.m.
Sunrise on Thursday: 06.15 a.m.

SRINAGAR: Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 29.0 Degree C
Min: 13.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 73.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 43.0 per cent

LEH: Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 23.1 Degree C
Min: 8.8 Degree C