

Terror major threat to global peace: Swaraj

BAKU, Apr 5: Terrorism is one of the foremost threats to international peace and security as it maims and kills "our citizens", and undermines the ability to attain development goals, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said today.

Addressing the 18th mid-term ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) here, Swaraj also pushed for reforms of the United Nations Security Council.

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Anbu reviews security

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Apr 5: Northern Army Commander Lt General D Anbu today visited Kashmir to review the situation and operational preparedness of the Army.

The visit comes after Sunday's killing of 13 militants in South Kashmir during which three Army personnel and four civilians were also killed and over 100 civilians injured in clashes that followed the gun battle.

Accompanied by the Chinara Corps Commander Lt Gen AK Bhatt, the Army Commander visited the Army formations in South Kashmir and was briefed

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Pathankot-Delhi flight launched

NEW DELHI/PATHANKOT, Apr 5:

Pathankot in Punjab came under the civil aviation network today with Alliance Air operating its first flight from Delhi under the Centre's regional connectivity scheme, UDAN.

Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the first flight to the border town.

Alliance Air began operations with an ATR aircraft on the route. The flight will be available on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The ticket price is Rs 2,570.

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Jaitley suffering kidney ailment

NEW DELHI, Apr 5:

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is suffering from a kidney ailment and may have to undergo a surgery, sources close to the Minister said.

Jaitley, 65, was brought to AIIMS where he underwent diagnostic tests. Doctors indicated that it was a kidney-related ailment.

A source at AIIMS said that the Minister is likely to undergo kidney transplant and it is learnt that formalities for a donor kidney have been completed.

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State to project its case afresh
8 States get 100 pc CSS funding, J&K left out at 90:10

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, Apr 5: In a major setback to Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of India has changed Central funding pattern of eight States from 90:10 to 100 per cent, leaving J&K at the old pattern of funding due to non projection of its case with the Centre, thus, keeping the State deprived of what could have been a major financial relief.

Official sources told the Excelsior that Jammu and Kashmir was always treated with eight North Eastern States in the terms of Central funding pattern taking into account the "less financial resources" and "backwardness" of the State. The J&K and North Eastern States were always treated equally and their funding pattern 70:30 was raised to 90:10 simultaneously. Some of the schemes still have the funding pattern of 70:30.

However, according to sources, the Jammu and

Kashmir Government didn't push its case for enhancing the funding in the terms of Centrally Sponsored Schemes from 90:10 to 100 per cent while Minister Incharge North-Eastern States, Dr Jitendra Singh, mooted the proposal before the Union Cabinet for North East and it was approved. There are eight States in the North-East.

Sources said though the Jammu and Kashmir Government representatives had been favouring increase in Central funding pattern of the State at 100 per cent during their meetings with the Union Ministers especially the Finance, they didn't push for it, a result of which the Centre gave nod to the North Eastern Minister's proposal, which was confined for North East, leaving the J&K behind.

This, sources said, is for the first time when Jammu and Kashmir has lagged behind the North Eastern States in terms of funding under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes

as J&K was being treated as Himalayan State, and was always clubbed with North East for liberal funding by the Centre in terms of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

"The State Government now proposed to take up the matter with the Union Finance Ministry at the earliest to increase Central funding of Jammu and Kashmir in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to 100 per cent at par with North Eastern States," sources said.

According to sources, the Himalayan and North Eastern States, which were being treated as 'Special Category States', had projected their case with the Government of India for facilitating 100 per cent funding from the Centre under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes on the ground that, in certain cases, they even don't have 10 per cent or 30 per cent mandatory funds for the project, a result of which the project is either shelved or gets delayed, leading to massive cost escalation.

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Militants abduct man

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 5: Militants abducted a man and injured his father in Hajin town of North Kashmir's Bandipora district late last night.

A spokesman, in a statement, said that militants barged into the house of Abdul Gaffar Bhat in Hajin around 11.15 pm and beat up the inmates. They abducted both Gaffar and his son Manzoor Ahmad Bhat.

However, Gaffar managed to escape from their custody despite suffering an injury. He

* Pic on page 6.

Video on www.excelsiornews.com

has been hospitalised, but his son Manzoor is still with the militants. A massive manhunt to trace the abducted person has been launched.

In a similar incident, gunmen abducted and killed another civilian, Naseer Ahmad Sheikh, in Hajin on Monday night.

Police said investigation so far has revealed that Mohammad Saleem Parrey of Hajin, who joined the militancy last summer and is associated with LeT, is the mastermind behind the last two abductions in Hajin.

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Tourists at Tulip Garden in Srinagar on Thursday.

-Excelsior/Shakeel

Work on PMGSY roads in district yet to be geared up
Administrative inertia responsible for hanging fate of Reasi DDB decisions

No major step to tap available tourism potential

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 5: Due to sluggishness on the part of administration and lack of coordination between the concerned authorities there is no noticeable action on several decisions pertaining to expediting developmental works, tapping available tourism potential and making available basic amenities taken by the District Development Board of Reasi over one year back.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Reasi District Development Board in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister for Cooperatives and Ladakh Affairs Chering Dorjay on March 15, 2017 had issued direction to the executing agencies and administration for conducting joint inspection of all the under-execution PMGSY roads in the district so as to remove bottlenecks and pave the way for gearing up of work.

This direction was issued as all the legislators from the district had voiced serious concern over dilly-dallying approach of the executing

agencies. "Though verbal instructions were issued to the executing agencies for gearing up the work yet joint inspection of all the ongoing roads had not been conducted till date as such the concern of the legislators as well as District Development Board has remained unaddressed", sources said.

Similarly, while considering the concern of the legislators the District Development Board had laid stress on initiating steps on urgent basis to ensure proper drinking water facility to all the left over villages in the district. "Only few villages have been covered but large number of areas are still crying for safe drinking water facility", sources informed.

"Similar is the fate of direction vis-à-vis preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new model villages in the district", they said while disclosing that all the concerned authorities have maintained non-serious approach on this direction till date. "Even no serious discussion between district administration and Rural Development Department has

taken place on this issue", they further said.

Keeping in view immense tourism potential in the district, the District Development Board had asked for initiating necessary steps so that tourism related activities could be geared up in the district. "The adventure tourism potential has been tapped only in respect of River Chenab while as other spots have yet not received the due attention", sources said.

"There is absolutely no focus on bringing virgin tourist spots on the tourism map by creating necessary infrastructure", they said while pointing towards Konsarnag Yatra route and Dagan Top, which have immense potential to attract tourists. "Not only in the District Development Board meeting the demand of creating tourism related infrastructure in these and other virgin tourist spots was raised by the legislators in the Legislative Assembly also a number of times but concerned authorities have yet not shown any seriousness", sources further said.

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CM admits excessive use of force in Kangan, assures action

Student protests rock Kashmir; schools, colleges closed

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Apr 5: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti, today visited the family of a Kangan youth killed during clashes and admitted that there has been excessive use of force and assured action against those responsible.

Mehbooba said initial reports indicated that excessive force was used and assured the family that action will be taken against those responsible.

She reached the house of Gowher Ahmad Rather at around 9 am and spent half an hour with the family, amid the heightened tension in the town

over the killing. She consoled the family and ensured that justice will be done in the case.

The father of the slain youth said that he has little expectations from the probe ordered by the Government. "She (Mehbooba) came here to express condolences. And they (authorities) also carry out such visits for photo-ops. We have put forth three demands before the CM and we will get to know by the end of today if she acts," said the father of slain youth. The family, among other demands, has asked the Chief Minister to dismiss the accused cop from service.

It may be mentioned here

that Police have suspended a cop, accused by the family of shooting at Gowher, and started a probe into the incident.

She was accompanied by MLC, Yasir Reshi; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Khan; IGP Kashmir zone, S P Pani; Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Piyush Singla; SSP Ganderbal, Fayaz Ahmad Lone and other senior officers.

Soon after her visit, people including women came out and protested and demanded stern action against those responsible for the killing of Gowher. However, police exercised restraint.

In the meantime, students in

several parts of Kashmir today protested against Sunday's killings in South Kashmir.

The clashes erupted as normalcy returned to most parts of the Valley following four days

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

of shutdown and protests against killings in Shopian, Anantnag and Kangan.

However, normal life remained crippled in South Kashmir districts of Shopian, Pulwama and Kulgam and Kokernag area of Anantnag.

As the schools re-opened for the first time this week in

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Patwari caught taking bribe

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 5: The Vigilance sleuths today arrested Patwari Halqa Kashirah, Udhampur, who was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 1.2 lakh from the complainant for issuing Fard of a piece of land.

The Vigilance action was taken on registration of FIR following written complaint by one Sudesh Sharma of Kashirah, who alleged that Revenue officials namely Lochan Singh (Girdwar) and Aneem Sharma (Patwari) were demanding a bribe of Rs 1.2 lakh for issuance of Fard land measuring 10 Marlas under Khsara No.621.

On the basis of the said complaint, a successful trap was laid by the Vigilance sleuths under the command of DySP Kamaljeet Singh. During the trap, Aneem Sharma (Patwari)

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HC raps Govt on failure to save tourist places

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 5: The State High Court today expressed deep anguish over the lackadaisical approach on part of the authorities in saving the tourist resorts in the State and directed for finalizing of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report and management plan (EIMP) for Sonamarg so that comprehensive status report is submitted before the Court.

Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and Justice M K Hanjura heavily came down on the authorities through their counsels for their casual approach in saving the tourist resorts which Court observed compelled it to reopen the matter which was closed way back

in September 2015. Court has also impressed upon CEO of SDA to get the resort connected with geo-tagging.

It may be mentioned here that the PIL on protection and preservation of rivers in general and river Sindh in particular was closed by the court way back in 2015 with certain directions upon the authorities.

It is only last year the said PIL was reopened after the Court took serious note and recorded that the Sonamarg tourist resort has suffered degradation due to lack of concern on part of stake holders.

CEO Sonamarg was present today before the Court and submitted that the EIA and EIMP is at final touch and Court asked him to finalize the same so that the counsel appearing on behalf of

Sonamarg Development Authority would be in a position to submit a comprehensive report in terms of directions passed in September last year by the court.

DB in its September order had recorded that Sonamarg area, it is evident, has suffered environmental degradation because of apathy on part of stake holders.

Court had said there are essentially four aspects to the Sonamarg area. The first aspect, is the attraction of meadows in Sonamarg.

"The meadows of Sonamarg reflect the actual nature in the sense that it means golden meadows. The second aspect is the Thajwas glaciers. It needs to be verified whether the glaciers are receding", Court directed

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Court gives 5-year jail term



Bollywood actor Salman Khan arrives at a court in Jodhpur on Thursday.

on bed, a rug and a cooler in his cell, Singh said.

"He (Khan) was given normal jail diet like Dal chapatti

and the morning meal will include simple khichdi," he said.

Sources, however, said the

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Srinagar Colleges spent meager amounts on books, laboratory equipments

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Apr 5: Colleges in Srinagar spend more on Sports and developmental activities than buying books for the library and chemical for the laboratory, a Right to Information (RTI) report revealed.

The report said that all the colleges in Srinagar including Sri Pratap College, Women's College, Amarsingh College and Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College Bemina spend more money on the sports and developmental works than upgrading the libraries and laboratories.

The findings suggested that despite an increase in the local college funds they continue to

spend insufficient amounts of money to enhance student facilities. The worst hit is the premier science college of Kashmir, S P College Srinagar. In the year 2017-2018, the college revenue rose from Rs. 39,78,120 to Rs. 53,26,335 but the budget for chemicals and laboratory equipment decreased surprisingly from Rs 34,94,711 to 11,84,731.

The college has not spent a single penny on the books in 2017 while as over one lakh rupees were spent on different sports activities. The major share of the money Rs.29,41,075 was spent for developmental activities. The revelation has come when the college was expected to spend more funds on the upgradation of laboratories as

some 5-6 new postgraduate programmes and two integrated science courses under cluster universities has been introduced in the college. The college has also taken 25 percent students on self-financing quota charging rupees one lakh each.

Although other colleges are doing slightly better than the SP College but the funds allotted for the upgradation of libraries and laboratories are insufficient. Instead of growing need for updated libraries and laboratories the college administration, the report reveals, is diverting the money to other programmes like cultural events and seminars.

In the last two years, the Women's College has spent over

Rs 8 lakhs on the sports activities while as less than Rs 1.5 lakhs were spent on the upgradation of library and books. However, there was 50 percent increase in the budget for upgradation of laboratory and chemicals with the increase in the revenue from Rs 14,89,23,000 in 2016-17 to Rs. 17,55,11,500 in 2017-18.

In last two years, Amar Singh college has spent Rs. 13,11,711 on sports activities while as a amount of Rs. 12,96,211 was spent on the upgradation of the library. The local funds also rose from Rs. Rs.70,41,055 to Rs. 94,38,245.

Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College Bemina has not spent a

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WEATHER
JAMMU:
Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 33.0 Degree C
Min: 19.9 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 56.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 39.0 per cent
Sunset on Friday: 06.55 p.m.
Sunrise on Saturday: 06.14 a.m.
SRINAGAR:
Generally cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 24.4 Degree C
Min: 8.9 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 64.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 43.0 per cent
LEH:
TEMPERATURE
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