

Singh for tight vigil on LoC

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 10: Northern Army Commander Lt General Ranbir Singh today asked the troops deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) to maintain tight vigil and thwart infiltration of militants from the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The Army Commander today visited forward areas of North Kashmir to review prevailing security situation on the LoC. He visited Uri along the LoC and Baramulla where he was briefed about the preparedness of the troops to foil any attempts of infiltration from

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HC issues notice to Govt for AEBAS

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 10: The High Court today issued notice to Government on linking the Aadhaar Cards of Government employees with their Biometric attendance in violation of Supreme Court orders and High Court.

Hearing a contempt petition filed by Advocate Syed MUSAIB stating that the Government despite clear directions from Supreme Court issued an order directing the employees to link

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Govt directive on deputation of officials

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 10: The State Government today directed the Administrative Secretaries to ensure that no officer/official of their Departments is transferred on deputation to other Departments without consent of the General Administration Department (GAD).

"If any such arrangement has been made by any department, the details will be furnished to the GAD within full justification for consideration of regularization (of the arrangement)," an official order issued by the GAD said.

DRI seizes heroin in Srinagar

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested three smugglers in Srinagar with 627 grams of high quality heroin which was being smuggled from Pakistan, officials said today.

The drug was to be transported to Punjab from Kashmir, they said.

Acting on intelligence inputs, the DRI officials intercepted a vehicle at Batwara area in Srinagar on Wednesday and arrested three Punjab-based

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JAMMU:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 33.5 Degree C
Min: 25.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 95.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 67.0 per cent
Sunset on Saturday: 07.22 p.m.
Sunrise on Sunday: 05.54 a.m.
SRINAGAR:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 32.0 Degree C
Min: 18.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 80.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 44.0 per cent
LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 28.4 Degree C
Min: 15.6 Degree C

Safe environment for elections discussed

Guv reviews security, calls for close watch on ground situation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 10: In a meeting involving senior civil, police, Central Armed Police, Army and State and Intelligence Agencies, Governor N N Vohra undertook a detailed review of security management related issues at the Raj Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, Northern Army Commander; Vijay Kumar, Advisor to Governor; B V R Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Lt. Gen. A K Bhat, GOC 15 Corps; Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to Governor; R K Goyal, Principal Secretary Home; Muneer Khan, ADGP, Home Guards, Security and Law and Order; S P Pani, IGP, Kashmir; Ravideep Singh Sahi, IG, CRPF Kashmir; Sonali Mishra, IG, BSF and officers of State and Central Intelligence Agencies.

After obtaining sector-wise assessments of the prevailing security situation and arising challenges, Vohra reiterated the crucial importance of maintaining a sustained close watch on



Governor N N Vohra reviewing security situation in Srinagar on Friday.

the ground situation. He stressed the need to maintain sustained real-time coordination between security forces and civil administration and uncompromising adherence to procedures which ensure against collateral damages while delivering effective counter-terror responses. Considering the pattern of security of all important establishments and installations. The meeting also discussed issues related to the security of the sharply reduced Shri Amarnathji Yatra and the need of a safe environment for the forthcoming elections to Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats.

No focus on preparation of plans, maintenance of schemes

J&K in dock over poor implementation of NRDWP

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 10: Jammu and Kashmir has come under sharp criticism for poor implementation of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), which is aimed at providing safe and adequate water for drinking, cooking and other domestic needs to every rural household.

There is hardly any component and provision of this scheme of the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation which has received due attention of the concerned authorities of the State as a result of which objectives behind the scheme could not be achieved in totality.

The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was launched in April 2009 by

Installation of water purification plants least priority

modifying the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and subsuming earlier sub-missions and schemes. Under this scheme, substantial funding is provided to the State.

As per the audit of NRDWP for the period from 2012 to 2017, J&K's performance has remained dismal on almost all the major components of the scheme because of absolute non-serious approach of those who remained at the helm of affairs in the Public Health Engineering Department during these five years.

As per the provisions of the scheme, water security planning is required to optimize the use of water resources within the constraints of financial and human resources in order to meet basic needs and also take decisions with regard to water resources management.

The water security planning is to be undertaken at the village, district and state levels. Moreover, under the broad goal set by each State, a five year comprehensive water security action plan is to be prepared. However, water security plans were not prepared at any of the

Indian Envoy meets Imran, raises concerns over terror

ISLAMABAD, Aug 10:

Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria today called on Pakistan's Prime Minister-in-waiting Imran Khan and discussed bilateral relations even as he voiced the Indian leadership's concerns over terrorism and cross-border infiltration.

Bisaria also felicitated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief on his success in the election.

"The Indian High Commissioner briefed the PTI leadership on India's concerns about terrorism and cross-border infiltration," the Indian High Commission here said in a tweet.

Khan's PTI emerged as the single largest party in the July 25 general election and it nominated him as Prime Minister. He will take oath as Prime Minister on August 18.

The Indian envoy met cricketer-turned-politician Khan at his Banigala residence in the suburbs of the capital.

He discussed various issues with Khan including the bilateral relationship and also present-

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)



School children look at weapons used by the Army during an exhibition at Jammu University on Friday.

J&K set to get grants worth Rs 1000 cr blocked by Centre

Govt feels State serious on Panchayat, ULB polls

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 10: In what could be a major relief for Jammu and Kashmir, the Central Government has in principle agreed to release the grants blocked for the State for not holding elections to Municipalities and Panchayats for past several years following an assurance given by the Government that it would hold elections to both bodies in next few months for which entire exercise has already been initiated.

Confirming this to the Excelsior, official sources said Jammu and Kashmir could benefit by at least Rs 1000 crore worth grants including Rs 700 crore for Panchayats and Rs 300 crore for Urban Local Bodies during the current financial year even if the previously blocked

grants were not released. However, if the Centre agrees to release the previous years' grants also, albeit in installments, the State would benefit immensely.

The State Government, according to sources, took up with the Centre the issue of pending grants running into hundreds of crores for past quite some time, which had been blocked as there were no elected Panchayats or Municipalities in current place. As per new procedures, the majority part of grants for these two bodies are released only to elected Panchayats and ULBs and, in their absence, the grants are blocked.

They said the State Government has projected that it has initiated entire exercise for conduct of both Panchayat and Municipal elections and the Central Government was also well

aware of the exercise as it was assisting in conduct of long pending polls to the urban and rural bodies. The State Government proposed to hold Municipal elections in September-October and Panchayat polls in October-December.

Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to get around Rs 1000 crore worth grants for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies during the current financial year including about Rs 700 crore for Panchayats and Rs 300 cr for ULBs. Initially, the Centre had decided not to release the grants to the State on the ground of delay in holding elections to the two bodies but with the State Government immediately after imposition of Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir on June 20 approving schedule for the

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SC stays J&K HC direction allowing people to carry food inside cinema halls

NEW DELHI, Aug 10:

The Supreme Court today stayed a Jammu and Kashmir High Court direction to the cinema hall and multiplex owners of the State not to prohibit moviegoers from carrying own food and water inside the theatres.

Besides the relaxation on carrying food items inside the theatres, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had on July 18 passed a number of directions related to cinema halls.

A bench of justices R F Nariman and Indu Malhotra, as an interim relief, stayed only one direction of the High Court and sought the reply of the State Government and the lawyers who had filed a PIL before the High Court within four weeks.

Appearing for the petitioner - the Multiplex Association of India that has challenged the High Court order -- senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said if the order was implemented across the country, these business entities would face a breakdown.

"Can I be allowed to carry my whisky and chips into

Willingdon Club and ask for soda there," Rohatgi said as he sought an immediate stay of the High Court order.

The bench asked the senior lawyer whether there were any rules that imposed restrictions on carrying food and water inside the theatres.

Rohatgi said statutory rules existed only for films and not for food articles as these business entities were cinema halls.

"The absence of any rules does not mean that people can carry their own food inside the cinema halls," he said.

Senior advocates Abhishek M Singhvi, Vivek Tankha and advocate Sumeer Sodhi, appearing for petitioner Waves Cinema, Jammu, also opposed the High Court order, saying the entry tickets of the theatres had conditions mentioned, restricting people from carrying food inside the halls.

"Due to the absence of any substantive law on the issue, we will have to rely upon old English judgments, which held that the terms and conditions mentioned on the entry tickets

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Protester hurt in clashes Bank guard foils rifle snatching bid

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Aug 10: A youth was critically injured during clashes between protesters and security forces in South Kashmir's Shopian district today.

Fayaz Ahmad, a resident of Poterwal village, received a bullet in his abdomen during clashes that broke out when a cordon and search operation was in progress in Tangwani-Tuckroo village of Shopian district.

Youth took to streets soon after security forces launched an operation against militants. The troops opened fire as the clashes intensified, leaving a youth injured. The troops fired after their Casper vehicle was pelted

with stones. Ahmad was shifted to district hospital Pulwama where from he was referred to SMHS hospital for specialised treatment.

*Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

Two masked men today tried to snatch the rifle of a Jammu and Kashmir Bank guard in Khrew area of Pampore. Two masked men attacked guard of J&K Bank branch Khrew to snatch his service rifle. However, the guard resisted and was injured in the process. The injured guard was later shifted to hospital for treatment. However, the two men managed to escape

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