

**SC restrains cops from acting against Major**

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: The Supreme Court today restrained the Jammu and Kashmir Police from taking any "coercive steps" against Army officers including Major Aditya Kumar, who have been made an accused in the Shopian firing case in which three civilians were killed.

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**Rajath reviews J&K security**

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: Home Minister Rajnath Singh today reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where two terror attacks in last three days have left nine persons dead, including five army men, officials said.

During an hour-long meeting with top officials, the Home Minister was given a detailed

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**Speaker, Chairman adjourn Houses sine-die**

JAMMU, Feb 12: Speaker Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta, today adjourned the House sine-die after 27-day budget session.

In his brief speech, the Speaker expressed gratitude to the members, including Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, A R Veeri, Leader of the Opposition, Omar Abdullah for

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**NIA to probe militant's escape**

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: The National Investigation Agency has taken over the case to probe the escape of Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist Naveed Jutt in Srinagar.

An NIA team is proceeding to Srinagar on Tuesday to take up the investigation of the case. The NIA has registered a case related to the escape of the hardcore LeT terrorist from SMHS hospital in Srinagar where he was brought under police custody on February 6 for treatment.

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**BJP MLAs for FIR against Lone**

JAMMU, Feb 12: BJP MLAs today created a ruckus in the Assembly as they demanded registration of an FIR against NC legislator Mohammad Akbar Lone for raising pro-Pakistan slogan in the House on Saturday.

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**Pic on page 11**

istration of an FIR against NC legislator Mohammad Akbar Lone for raising pro-Pakistan slogan in the House on Saturday.

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**Nirmala hints at local support to terrorists**  
**Pak will have to pay for misadventure: DM**

**Sanjeev Pargal**  
JAMMU, Feb 12: In a stern warning that indicated "imminent retaliatory action" against Pakistan by the Army in the wake of Sunjuwan terror attack, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today declared that Pakistan will have to pay for this misadventure even as she asserted that the attackers were being controlled by their handlers from

\*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

across the border and also indicated that they enjoyed "local support" here in carrying out the attack.

"Pakistan will have to pay for this adventure," she repeated twice during brief media-interaction at Tigers Division late this evening after flying over Sunjuwan Military Station for aerial supervision of the encounter site, meeting Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and visiting Military Hospital, Satwari to inquire condition of the injured. She returned to the Union capital late tonight.

Flanked by General Officer Commanding (GOC) 9 Corps Lt Gen YVK Mohan, whose Corps headquarters are at Yel

Cantonment commands Jammu, Samba and Kathua border districts, Sitharaman, however, declined to set timeline for making Pakistan to pay for the misadventure.

"I won't set the timeline but Pakistan will have to pay for this. Giving evidence to Pakistan for all attacks including dossiers after dossiers doesn't deny us the right to respond befittingly. Giving

evidences to Pakistan will strengthen our arguments," she said, responding to a question that whether the Government of India will once again give evidence to Pakistan on its involvement in Sunjuwan terror attack notwithstanding the fact that Pakistan hasn't acted on previous such dossiers given on Mumbai, Pathankote and other such terror strikes.

**Terror attackers were controlled from across the border**



Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gets emotional while inquiring condition of an injured in Military Hospital, Satwari on Monday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Sitharaman maintained that handing over evidence to Pakistan has to be a continuous process though they haven't acted on previous dossiers.

"All evidence will be compiled and in coordination with Ministries of Home and External Affairs, they will be given to Pakistan. The Mumbai masterminds are free and roaming happily in Pakistan. The handlers are back and influencing the ter-

rorists," she said in an apparent reference to free movement of Hafiz Saeed and Zakir-ur-Rehman Lakhvi in Pakistan.

She, however, didn't comment on a question as to whether India would conduct 'Surgical Strikes 2' on Pakistan.

Directly blaming Pakistan for Sunjuwan terror attack in which five Army soldiers, a civilian and three fidayeens were killed, the Defence Minister, who reached here this afternoon and flew over Sunjuwan Military Station for aerial surveillance of the operations, said: "our Intelligence inputs indicated that these terror attackers were being controlled by their handlers from across the border. The evidence is being scrutinized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which will soon furnish a detailed report".

Sitharaman dropped enough hints of "local support" to the militants.

"The demography of the Cantonment, which was attacked by the militants and adjoining area, indicated the possibility of local support to the terrorists. The Jaish-e-Mohammed module, which

(Contd on page 11 Col 5)

**Rain, snow end dry spell; 3 killed**

Flights to Kashmir cancelled, 20 rescued; NH closed

**Fayaz Bukhari/ Gopal Sharma**

SRINAGAR/ JAMMU, Feb 12: Heavy rain across J&K and fresh snowfall in Valley and at the higher reaches of Jammu region including Patnitop and Trikuta hills of Mata Vaishnodevi since last night, today brought sharp fall in temperature, three persons

\*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

were killed in lightning during thunderstorm in Reasi and Rajouri while Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been closed due to land slides at several places between Ramban and Banihal.

The air traffic to Kashmir remained suspended today due to snowfall and bad weather while 20 people were rescued

from Kulgam district of Kashmir from Avalanche prone area by the authorities.

Reports said that due to blockage of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and heavy snowfall at Jawahar tunnel, over

Manwal-Mansar Road since last night. The Traffic police authorities have restricted the movement of Kashmir bound vehicles at Sitlee- Nagrota Check Post and also at TCP Udhampur. However, the movement of

Patnitop was slippery due to fresh snowfall, therefore, the movement of fuel / LPG tankers was also stopped on this road.

People of Kashmir this morning woke to a thick blanket of snow ending a long dry spell. A MeT official said that Srinagar city recorded 16 cm of snowfall till evening, Qazigund recorded 17 cm, Pahalgam 13 cm, Kokernag 11 cm, Banihal 13 cm, and Baderwah 15 cm of snow.

Gulmarg recorded 32 cm of snow as the minimum temperature was recorded at minus 2.1 degree Celsius. Pahalgam, in south Kashmir recorded minimum temperature of 2.1 degree Celsius.

The continuous snowfall and poor visibility led to the cancellation of all flights to and from Srinagar Airport. The snowfall

(Contd on page 13 Col 1)



Vehicles covered with snowfall stranded at National Highway on Monday. Another pic on page 11. -Excelsior/Sajad Dar

2000 vehicles have been stranded at Nagrota Bypass, Kishtwar was allowed via Udhampur- Dhar Road and vehicles towards Doda and Nashri Tunnel. The road at

**LeT cmdr, associate killed in road mishap**  
**Two LeT men holed up, encounter on**

**CRPF foil fidayeen attack; one killed, cop injured**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR Feb 12: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was killed and a police man injured as

\*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

they foiled an attempt by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) fidayeen to storm into their camp at Karan Nagar area of Srinagar

early today.

The CRPF today thwarted a fidayeen attack on their 23rd battalion camp in Karan Nagar area of Srinagar early today. A

CRPF spokesman said that in the wee hours today, fidayeen, carrying bags and armed with AK 47s, were seen approaching

(Contd on page 11 Col 7)



Security personnel taking position at Karan Nagar, Srinagar during encounter on Monday. (UNI)

CRPF spokesman said that in the wee hours today, fidayeen, carrying bags and armed with AK 47s, were seen approaching

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**Legislature passes 6 Bills, gives nod for 3 times hike to salary of Judges**

■ Mata Sukrala Shrine Board Bill referred to Select Committee

**Nishikant Khajuria**  
JAMMU, Feb 12: On last day of the Budget Session, the Legislature today gave its nod for almost three times hike to the salaries of Chief Justice and Judges of the J&K High Court as both the Houses passed six different Government Bills even as another Bill for amending the Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Sukrala Devi Ji Shrine (SMSDJS) and Shri Mata Bala Sundari Shrine (SMBSS) Act 2013, was referred to the Select Committee on demand of the Opposition Members in Legislative Assembly.

The other Government Bills, which were passed today by Lower House as well as the Upper House with a voice vote, included; Bill for establishment of J&K's first National Law University, Bill for Protection of interests of depositors in J&K, Bill to bring ATF, Natural Gas under J&K Motor Spirit & Diesel Oil Act and Bill to transfer Passenger Tax administration to MVD while the Bill to facilitate setting up J&K State Power Trading Company was passed along with amendments suggested by Devender Rana of National Conference.

The Legislature passed 37th Constitutional Amendment Bill 2018 to enhance salary of the Chief Justice and Judges of the J&K High Court from Rs 90,000 to Rs 2.50 lakh and from Rs 80,000 to Rs 2.25 lakh, respectively.

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**Talks, not war, will solve problem: CM**

**Session ends with Oppn walkout against Speaker**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 12: Barring strongly for the talks to resolve the issue confronting Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today said that there is no way out other than the talks as India and Pakistan have fought wars but the basic problem of Jammu and Kashmir has not been

\*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

resolved.

Addressing the Legislative Assembly before the House adjourned sine die after completion of budget session, Mehbooba hit out at the TV channels for holding debates on

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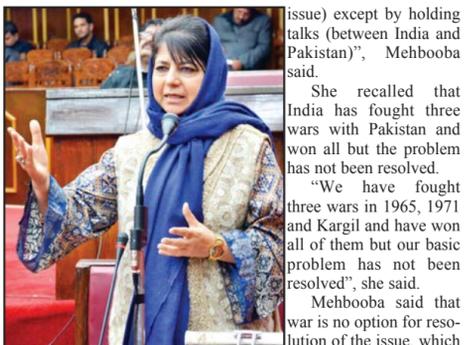
Maha Shivratri Greetings To All Our Readers.

**India to ask Pak to takeover bodies of slain fidayeens**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Feb 12: As all three fidayeen killed inside Sunjuwan Military Station have turned out to be Pakistanis, the External Affairs Ministry would approach Pakistan to take bodies of their nationals.

Sources told the Excelsior that bodies of all three slain fidayeens have been kept at the Military Hospital, Satwari after post-mortem and completion of all other legal formalities.

(Contd on page 11 Col 3)



Jammu and Kashmir to increase their TRPs but, in the process, doing dis-service to the nation and the State by creating an environment of hatred among the people.

"If Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti say hold talks with Pakistan, they are being dubbed as anti-nationals. There is no alternative (to resolve the

issue) except by holding talks (between India and Pakistan)", Mehbooba said.

She recalled that India has fought three wars with Pakistan and won all but the problem has not been resolved.

"We have fought three wars in 1965, 1971 and Kargil and have won all of them but our basic problem has not been resolved", she said.

Mehbooba said that war is no option for resolution of the issue, which can be resolved only by holding talks with Pakistan at any given point of time.

"We are losing our people on the borders and hinterland. Whether he is a civilian or security force personnel, our people are getting killed. Only option rests with holding talks", she said.

(Contd on page 11 Col 3)

**SMC marching ahead with full utilization of funds**  
**Slackness at its peak: JMC registers only 23% expenditure under AMRUT Scheme**

**Mohinder Verma**

JAMMU, Feb 12: Exhibiting height of slackness, Jammu Municipal Corporation has registered only 23% expenditure under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Scheme of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. This is notwithstanding the repeated directions from the Chief Secretary, who heads State level High Powered Committee entrusted with the task of steering the Mission Programme in its entirety,

**Directives of CS on expediting works fail to yield results**

about gearing up of works.

However, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation is marching ahead with full utilization of funds released under the Mission Programme of the Union Government.

As per the official data, an amount of Rs 2222 lakh was released in the year 2016-17 under AMRUT Scheme for utilization by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on different projects.

However, the Corporation could register expenditure of only Rs 516 lakh, which is around 23%.

Of Rs 2222 lakh, an amount of Rs 667 lakh was released for design, construction, erection and commissioning of 164 KLD Septage Treatment Plant at Bhagwati Nagar; purchase of sewer/jetting machine; design, construction, installation, commissioning and testing of 4 MLD Sewerage Treatment Plant

for 5 nullahs falling on left side of River Tawi and construction of sewerage system by way of laying of sewers construction of manhole for 5 nullahs on left side of River Tawi.

However, only an amount of Rs 88 lakh was spent by the Jammu Municipal Corporation thereby exposing the slackness on the part of the concerned authorities.

Similarly, an amount of Rs 1000 lakh was released during 2016-17 to JMC for construction of deep drains at Saraswati Vihar, Top Sherkhania, Rajiv Basti/Bikram Chowk, Vasant

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**Srinagar-Qazigund NH misses 3 deadlines in 7 years**

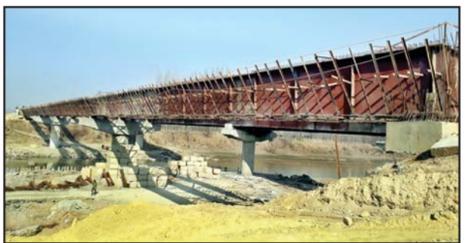
**Waseem Ahmad**

SRINAGAR, Feb 12: Despite missing three deadlines in the past, the widening of Srinagar-Qazigund National Highway is not complete even as seven years have been passed since the project was started.

The widening of the highway was first set to be completed by June 2014, and then it was extended to 2015 and then December 2017 was set as another deadline for the project.

But authorities failed to complete the project within the stipulated time.

The widening of the National Highway was started in 2011 but several stretches and various minor bridges of the highway



View of incomplete bridge over river Jhelum at Aghanzipora on Qazigund-Srinagar 4 lane highway. -Excelsior/Younis Khaliq

are still incomplete.

As per RAMKY, a Hyderabad-based construction company, tasked with the widening of the highway, the project was delayed several times in past due to 2014 devas-

tating floods and 2016 unrest.

"After 2014 floods in Kashmir and unrest of 2016, the banks which were supporting the project hesitated in funding of the project. It was

(Contd on page 11 Col 7)