JMD
SP SMART
TRUTHFULNESS HUMANITY COURAGE
HR. SEC. SCHOOLS
11TH & 12TH | JEE & NEET

daily
Excelsior

Follow us: Daily Excelsior | JAMMU, FRIDAY, JULY 9, 2021 | REGD. NO. JK-71/21-23 RNI No. 28547/65 | Vol No. 57 No. 188 | 16 Pages | ₹ 5.00

Zevar BY R.V. JEWELLERS
100% HALLMARK GOLD
IGI CERTIFIED DIAMOND
We are following all safety measures
78895-88656
ZEVAR ROAD, GANDHI NAGAR, BELOW TITAN SHOWROOM, NEAR JWS, JAMMU

Raj Bhawan, Civil Sectt declared 'No Fly Zone'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: District Magistrate, Jammu, Anshul Garg today declared Raj Bhawan, Jammu and Civil Secretariat, Jammu as "No Fly Zone"- strictly prohibiting flying of Drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) over and above these premises with immediate effect.

As per an order, there shall also be complete prohibition on flying of Drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) over all areas in Jammu as and when Lieutenant Governor is scheduled to visit in connection with holding of events.

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

"Since it is not possible to serve

(Contd on page 6 Col 2)

India trashes Pak claim on blast near Saeed's house

NEW DELHI, July 8:

India today strongly trashed as "baseless propaganda" Pakistan's claim that it was behind a bomb blast near the house of JuD chief Hafiz Saeed in Lahore last month, and asked Islamabad to take "credible and verifiable" action against terrorism emanating from its soil instead.

At a media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi asked Pakistan to focus on setting its own house in order in containing terror networks and said that the international community is well aware of that country's credentials when it comes to terrorism.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Virbhadra Singh passes away

SHIMLA, July 8:

Six-time Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Virbhadra Singh died here early today after prolonged illness. He was 87.

The veteran leader breathed his last at the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) here at 3.40 am, senior Medical Superintendent, Dr. Janak Raj said.

Singh suffered from a heart attack on Monday and was critical since then. He was put on ventilator support on Wednesday after he had breathing problems, doctors said.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Cabinet approves Rs 23,123 cr for health infra

NEW DELHI, July 8:

The Union Cabinet today approved a Rs 23,123-crore financial package for improving health infrastructure in the country to fight the COVID pandemic.

Addressing a press conference here after the first meeting of the Union Cabinet following its reshuffle on Wednesday, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the package will be implemented over the next nine months till March 2022.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Give due share to all parts of Jammu: NC to Delimitation Comm

Despite Panel's 'No', BJP wants one-third PoJK constituencies de-freezed; 3 seats for KPs

Cong stresses fair exercise, NPP for 45 seats each to two regions

BSP seeks 2 more segments for SCs, JKAP for involving stakeholders

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 8: On Day 3 of their visit to the Union Territory, the Delimitation Commission today visited Kishtwar and Jammu and interacted with various political parties, organizations and elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and received memorandums from them seeking their viewpoint on delimitation of Assembly constituencies for 90-seat Legislature granted to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Commission headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai and comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and State Election Commissioner KK Sharma met three Deputy Commissioners of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban in Kishtwar today and will interact with seven remaining Deputy Commissioners of Jammu region here tomorrow before winding up their four-day first-visit to the Union Territory since the Commission was set up in March 2020.

Barring PDP, delegations from all major political parties and host of organizations besides the District Development Council (DDC) and BDC Chairpersons met the Commission at Kishtwar and Jammu. The PDP had already announced that it will not be meeting the Panel.

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

A BJP delegation led by party president Ravinder Raina in its meeting with the Commission demanded de-freezing of one-third of seats reserved for Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) for the PoJK refugees living in Jammu.

"We told the Commission that this (de-freezing of PoJK seats) is possible as PoJK had earlier been allocated 25 seats and one of the seats from PoJK was de-freezed and allotted to Mendhar. We want one-third seats of PoJK i.e. eight to be de-freezed by the Panel and these seats be reserved for PoJK refugees living here for past 74 years," BJP UT chief Ravinder Raina told the Excelsior after meeting with the Commission and submitting them comprehensive memorandum in support of their demand.

Raina said the data pertaining to PoJK refugees was available with the Central Government as each family has been given Rs 5.5 lakh exgratia recently.

As exclusively reported by the Excelsior, the Delimitation Commission has ruled out de-freezing of one-third PoJK seats citing the laws.

Raina said the BJP also demanded reservation of three Assembly seats for Kashmiri Pandits-one each in North, Central and South Kashmir and reservation in the Legislature for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes proportionate to their population.

Dr Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, both former Deputy Chief Ministers, Sunil Sethi and RS Pathania accompanied Raina in the BJP delegation to the Commission.

The National Conference delegation headed by party's provincial president Devender Singh Rana said the Delimitation Commission must give its due share to all parts of Jammu region so that our commitment for equitable empowerment of all regions and sub regions does not get dented.

"Jammu and its sub regions whether they are plains of Jammu or the hills of Poonch-Rajouri or the erstwhile Doda district comprising Kishtwar, Doda and

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Boulevard Road on the banks of Dal lake in Srinagar bedecked with national flags.
—Excelsior/Shakeel

India's scientific fraternity capable of leading world: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 8 : Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said today that India's scientific fraternity is capable of leading the world.

Speaking to media after assuming charge of two new Union Ministries, namely Ministry of Science & Technology (Independent Charge) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (Independent Charge), Dr Jitendra Singh who is also MoS PMO, Personnel/DoPT, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accords highest priority to scientific pursuits, takes personal interest in all the new scientific initiatives and at the same time, is also keen that new scientific breakthroughs should be applicable in bringing about "Ease of Living" for the common man. He said that with the support of India's eminent scientific fraternity, it shall be his earnest endeavour to realise Modi's goal of raising India's scientific capabilities to new heights.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh assuming charge as Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Science & Technology at New Delhi on Thursday.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that nearly seven years ago, he had the opportunity of briefly heading the same Ministry and, therefore, he shall try to carry forward various projects in the pipeline and also plan new ones which could be best suited to the requirements of contemporary Indian society.

The Minister was given a powerpoint presentation and briefed about the key initiatives and policy issues of the Ministry by the Union Secretary Science & Technology, Professor Ashutosh Sharma and Director General CSIR, Dr Shekhar Manda. A presentation on the COVID-19 Mitigation Initiatives was also made on the occasion.

DG, CSIR informed that since the early days of pandemic, CSIR has worked with focused strategy to deliver various interventions and

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Ultras reportedly infiltrated about 10 days back

Two Army jawans martyred, two militants killed in Sunderbani

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: Two Army jawans were martyred and two foreign militants were killed in fierce gunbattle at Dadal forests near the Line of Control (LoC) in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district this afternoon.

Army was hunting a group of militants which had infiltrated into the Indian territory from the LoC in Sunderbani since around 28th or 29th June.

Troops had developed specific information about the group of militants having taken shelter in Dadal forests after infiltration and were trying to engage them in encounter. In the earlier gunbattle, one Army jawan was injured with same group of militants.

"A contact with the militants was established today by the searching parties of Army leading to fierce gun fighting which continued till late this evening," sources said, adding that two Army jawans were martyred in the operation with the militants.

Two foreign militants were also killed while the operation was on.

The martyr jawans have been identified as Naib Subedar Sreejith M and Sepoy Maruprolu Jaswanth Reddy.

Their bodies have been shifted to hospital and will be sent to their native towns tomorrow after tributes with full military honours.

Slain militants haven't been identified so far but they were foreign militants, reportedly from Pakistan.

So far, Army has recovered

The martyrs

two AK-47 rifles and ammunition in large quantity besides explosive material from the site of encounter.

Search operations were going on in the area and possibility of presence of more militants in the area is not ruled out. Bodies of slain militants have reportedly been recovered.

Sources said the militants appeared to be part of fresh infiltrated group from the Line of Control in Sunderbani sector around 10 days back and had to use either Pir Panjal mountains to reach Kashmir or strike in populated areas of Rajouri and Poonch.

However, they were intercepted by the troops before they could succeed in their designs and eliminated by the brave Army soldiers.

This is the second major encounter on the Line of Control in last two days and both the gun battles took place in Rajouri district.

Yesterday, troops had foiled an infiltration attempt on the LoC in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district by killing a militant. Two Army jawans were injured in the gunbattle. Other militants were reported to have retreated to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) after killing of their colleague.

This was the first major infiltration attempt on the Line of Control since February 25, 2021 fresh ceasefire agreement between Indo-Pak troops on the LoC and International Border. The intrusion bid was, however, successfully thwarted by the Indian Army.

Notwithstanding fresh ceasefire agreement, sources said, troops all along the Line of Control and International Border have been maintaining very high alert to foil infiltration attempts and new challenge of drone terror attacks.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

CS takes serious note, issues fresh directives to Admn Secys

Despite clear orders, several Govt buildings, bridges in J&K still lacking approach roads

Mohinder Verma

**Non-seriousness putting people to immense trouble*

JAMMU, July 8: Despite explicit directions issued more than eight months back, several Government buildings, bridges and other establishments in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are still lacking proper approach roads and this is creating immense problems for the people and obstacles in achieving the intended outcome of the projects.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that during visit to various districts of the Union Territory during Back to Village (B2V) Programme last year, some Administrative Secretaries noticed that several Government buildings which have been constructed by spending several crores of rupees were lacking proper road connectivity.

Quoting one such example, sources said that a huge building for the Poonch Degree College was constructed but proper road connectivity was not provided as no serious attention was paid towards this vital aspect at the time of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

"Similarly, there are several buildings of the Health and Medical Education Department, which even several years after their construction don't have proper connectivity due to which the patients, attendants and doctors are facing immense difficulties", sources further said.

The ambulances and other vehicles carrying patients are compelled to pass through the bumpy roads to reach the health centres and this clearly establishes that those who had formulated the DPRs for the health centres either intentionally or due to non-serious approach ignored the construction of approach roads.

"There is a long list of the departments whose vital buildings lack proper road connectivity because of absolute non-seriousness on the part of those who had formulated the Detailed Project Reports", they further said while disclosing that there are numerous bridges in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions which have been constructed but without any focus on providing proper approach roads.

During all the three phases of the Back to Village (B2V) Programme the visiting Government officers received numerous complaints from the common masses about lack of proper connectivity to several vital infrastructure created by the Government departments.

This was also admitted by the Roads and Buildings Department while issuing a circular on the subject in the month

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Guide arrested in ex-filtration case

4 militants killed in South Kashmir, attack on NH-44 foiled

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 8: Four militants were killed in two separate nocturnal gunfights in South Kashmir today and a major attack on the National Highway which two among them were planning was foiled.

Inspector General of Police Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar told Excelsior that in an encounter at

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

Puchal area of Pulwama district, two militants were killed in an overnight joint operation of police and security forces.

"Two more militants were killed in another gunfight at Zodar area of Kulgam," the IGP said, adding that these militants belonged to Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit.

Security forces near encounter site at Puchal in Pulwama district on Thursday. *—Excelsior/Younis Khaliq*

He said that two militants killed in Kulgam were planning a big strike on the National Highway in South Kashmir. "The encounter took place in an area close to the Highway and they were planning an attack on the

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Announced in Mar 2015, Bio Safety Level-3 Lab yet to be made functional in GMC Jammu

Govind Sharma

**Lab in Srinagar commissioned 4 yrs back*

JAMMU, July 8: Even after the lapse of over six years, the Bio-Safety Level-3 could not be made functional in Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu while a similar lab announced at the same time for Kashmir was made functional in Chest Disease Hospital Srinagar around four years back.

Official sources told Excelsior that after the outbreak of Swine Flu in the year 2015, the concerned J&K Government had announced two Level-3 Bio Safety labs, one for Jammu Division at GMC Jammu and another for Kashmir Division at Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar so that such pandemics could be tackled effectively.

The funds for the two labs were also released by the Government the very next day of their announcement. While a sum of Rs 6.3 crore was released for the lab at GMC Jammu, an amount of Rs 5.63 crore was released for the lab to be established in CD Hospital Srinagar.

Sources said while both the labs were announced simultaneously, the Lab in Chest Disease Hospital Srinagar was made functional about four years back but the lab at GMC Jammu is still in installation stage. They said the administration of Government Medical College Jammu failed to select even a firm till ending 2018 when the lab had been fully established in CD Hospital Srinagar and was ready for commissioning.

"In the year 2019, the GMC administration woke up from slumber and allotted the task of installation of lab to Biosafe India Limited, the company which had installed the lab in CD Hospital Srinagar. The company started the work soon after allotment and in few months completed about 50-60 % of the work but it suddenly stopped the work due to non-payment of dues.

Sources said though the desired payment was released to the firm after a month or two, but thereafter due to outbreak of

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

One more black fungus case reported

4 COVID deaths in J&K, 262 test +ve

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, July 8: Four persons died of COVID-19 while 262 others tested positive in Jammu and Kashmir today.

Two deaths, both in Doda district, and 120 cases were recorded in Jammu region.

One more confirmed case of black fungus was reported today taking total cases in the UT o 31.

A 76-year-old woman hailing from Bhaderwah and 67-year-old man from Bhatta Dessa in Doda district died of COVID-19 in the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu and Doda respectively. Both were co-morbid.

Among 120 fresh positive cases in Jammu region, 25 were reported from Jammu district, 21 Doda, 17 Reasi, 16 Rajouri, 11 Udhampur, 10 Ramban, eight Poonch, six Kathua and three each in Samba and Kishtwar districts.

As against 120 new positive cases, 136 recovered from the virus today.

Jammu region now has 1,20,543 Corona cases. Among them 1491 are active positives while 1,16,927 have recovered from the virus and there have been 2125 casualties.

Meanwhile, the Union Territory of Ladakh today reported six new COVID positive cases—three each in Leh and Kargil districts.

Ladakh now has only 183 active positive cases.

Meanwhile, Kashmir today reported 142 fresh cases of COVID-19 while two persons succumbed to the virus.

One person each died at SKIMS Soura and SMHS hospital Srinagar today.

Srinagar reported 53 cases, Baramulla 22, Budgam 5, Pulwama 8, Kupwara 11, Anantnag 14, Bandipora 7, Ganderbal 11 and Kulgam 11.

As per officials figures, 70,510 positive cases including 831 deaths and 69,028 recoveries are from Srinagar, 23,368 including 280 deaths and 22,855 recoveries are from Baramulla, 22,703 including 22,311 recoveries and

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)