

BJP MPs to bring bill on population control, UCC

NEW DELHI, July 12: BJP MPs will introduce private members' bills on population control and Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament, according to information from the Secretariats of both Houses. The private members' bill on population control comes close on the heels of the law

NEET postponed to Sept 12

NEW DELHI, July 12: Medical entrance exam NEET, which was scheduled for August 1, will now be conducted on September 12, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced today. "The NEET-UG 2021, will be held on 12th September across the country following COVID-19 protocols. The application process will begin from 5 pm tomorrow through the NTA website," Pradhan said in a series of tweets.

No COVID death in J&K, 155 test +ve

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, July 12: Jammu and Kashmir today didn't report any COVID casualties but 155 fresh cases including 113 in Kashmir and 42 in Jammu. Nine fresh COVID cases were reported in the UT of Ladakh.

NIA arrests 3 alleged ISIS cadres

SRINAGAR, July 12: The National Investigation Agency today arrested three alleged ISIS cadres in Voice of Hind (VoH) case from South Kashmir's Anantnag district. The raids continued for second consecutive day today during which the NIA along with Police and CRPF raided a shop-Geographic Printing Press - in Anantnag and arrested one person identified as Aarif Hussain Qadri son of Peerzada Tahir, a

Govt gives charge of 9 Distts to Admn Secys

JAMMU, July 12: The Government today nominated nine Administrative Secretaries as 'Prabhari Officers' for districts for independent feedback on developmental works under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP). An order to this effect was issued today by Commissioner/Secretary General Administration Department

Mir relieved, Kumar to hold addl charge

JAMMU, July 12: The UT Government today relieved IPS officer Abdul Ghani Mir, who has been posted as IG Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on deputation basis for an initial period of five years. He was relieved to take up the new assignment. Meanwhile, Deepak Kumar,

Arms seized on LoC

SRINAGAR, July 12: Army today recovered arms and ammunition from Gogaldara area in the Keran sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. An official said that the Army recovered two AK-56 rifles, a pistol with holster along with several magazines and rounds of ammunition along the

IMD issues orange alert for J&K Heavy rain, floods wreak havoc across J&K

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, July 12: Breaking record of over past 32 years, heavy rain lashed Jammu areas, causing massive floods and extensive damage to the public property while many roads have been closed due to landslides. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for adjoining Himachal Pradesh. The IMD has predicted heavy rain across the Northern region during next two more days.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was blocked due to over-night rain at Samroli near Udhampur and Magarkote-Digdol area in Ramban sector but it was restored after 2-3 hours of closure. The traffic remained moving on snail's pace on the highway in Ramban sector till late this evening due to single passage at several places after landslides. Official sources said that due to landslides at Samroli during early hours today, the busy National Highway was blocked. However, it was restored within



Dozens of structures damaged due to flood in Nallah at Kalika Colony in Jammu.

two hours. The movement of traffic was also disrupted twice in Magarkote and Digdol areas during the day today due to falling of boulders. However, the road was restored after clearance work. Slow movement of vehicles and traffic jams were witnessed in Ramban, Chanderkote and Digdol areas during the whole day today. Sources further said that Jammu City recorded the highest ever rainfall of 150.6 mm during the past 24 hours since 1989 for the month of July. Heavy downpour was witnessed in other parts of the

region as well. Katra and Samba received massive 76.6 mm and 119 mm rainfall, respectively during past 24 hours till 8 am today. Kathua recorded 24.8 mm, Batote 25.4 mm while Banihal 6.4 mm rainfall till 8.30 am today, the spokesman said. The spokesman further said that moderate to heavy rain is likely to continue during next two more days, particularly in Jammu region which may cause flash floods in some areas and the temperature may stay 3-10 degree Celsius below normal.

At Kalika Colony of Bahu Fort area in Jammu, the flood water in Nallah wreaked havoc and caused extensive damage to over two dozen houses and other structures. Rain and Nallah water entered many houses in Shastri Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Channi Rama, Jawahar Nagar, Preet Nagar, Gangyal, Canal Road and Talab Tiloo areas. The public and vehicles movement remained affected till late hours in flooded streets today. The flood water caused massive damage to household goods and electronic gadgets of the people. A long wall of CRPF Centre at Ban Talab was collapsed while a small bridge at Gadigarh in Gandhi Nagar constituency was damaged. The flooded Nallah water also entered nearby Police Post and Govt school at Gadigarh besides many adjoining areas.

A car was trapped in the mud-slide on Doda-Kashtigarh road during morning hours today. However, the people onboard had narrow escape as they ran away leaving the vehicle. Thathri-Gandoh and several other link roads in Doda and Ramban were closed due to landslides.

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Anti-drone tech almost ready with DRDO Security agencies to identify most vulnerable installations

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, July 12: Security agencies are in the process of identification of strategically important sites within the distance of 15 to 20 kilometers from the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) for installation of anti-drone technology developed by the Defence and Research Development Organization (DRDO) to thwart June 27 like terror attacks using drones on the Indian Air Force (IAF) base at Satwari here. "Initially, the technology is likely to be installed at selective security installations which are strategically more significant

Buildings between 15-20 kms from border to get preference and are located within 15 to 20 kilometers from LoC and IB in Jammu and Kashmir," sources told the Excelsior. They said the DRDO has demonstrated anti-drone technology to top Army Commanders and apparently it seems successful as it can hit the approaching drones nearly three to four kilometers away from the target. However, they added, the system is quite expensive and would cost around Rs 22 crore per equipment. There are a number of military installations in Jammu and Kashmir which are located between 15 to 20 kilometers from the Line of Control and International Border. If the new technology is approved by the Military Commanders, initially the security agencies might go for installation of new equipments in very limited manner. For the purpose, sources said, the security agencies are in the process of identification of strategically important installations which will require anti-drone technology immediately and the buildings where it can be installed at a later stage. "Gradually, majority of sen-

Encroachment of Nallahs responsible: JMC Heavy rainfall leaves litter on roads, streets; water enters residential houses

Sanjeev K. Sharma
JAMMU July 12: Waterlogging at many places, garbage and litter on city roads and streets, dirty water gushing out of the sewerage holes, blocked drains and entering residential houses and shops with moving vehi-



Rain water enters Nanak Nagar on Monday.

cles splashing dirty water on passersby and those on two wheelers, was all the City of Temples witnessed today due to heavy downpour which marked the advent of monsoon this year. While the affected people questioned unpreparedness of Jammu Municipal Corporation

(JMC) which was supposed to de-silt drains and Nallahs much before the start of rainy season to avoid damages, the worst hit areas remained Gumat-Jogi Gate area, Rajiv Nagar near Bikram Chowk, Gandhi Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Kalika Colony, Bantalab etc. "Water from Nallah at Last Morh area of Gandhi Nagar entered some houses causing huge damage," Bhanu Mahajan, JMC Councillor of Ward 21 (Gandhi Nagar area) said adding that Nallah behind Apsara Theatre also overflowed and the dirty water entered residential houses in the locality. She also informed that Landoi Choi Nallah also overflowed causing heavy damage and claimed that the Nai Basti Nallah in her Ward was reduced in width from six to three feet after repair due to which water gushes out of it during rains. "What the Chief Engineer of Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) and Executive Engineers of five divisions of JMC are doing when there is such devastation due to rains," she resented. "Drains overflowed and water entered many houses in my

Bandipora Health Centre crumbles before getting functional

Suhail Bhat
SRINAGAR, July 12: A newly constructed Health Centre in remote Sirinder village of North Kashmir's Bandipora district is crumbling before being handed over to the Department of Health and Medical Education. The building appears to be on the verge of collapse and much of the broken roof is dangling from the ceiling making it extremely dangerous for the patients and staff. "It is an inevitable disaster as a large part of the roof has broken and is hanging from the ceiling. We feel unsafe near the building," Ali Mohammad, a resident, said. He, however, alleged that contractors used sub-

standard material on the building, leaving it unsafe. He informed that the health centre is operational with a lone staffer performing his duties in one of its unfinished rooms. They left the other two rooms vacant, while treating incomplete washrooms as storerooms for the construction material. The Health Centre is located nearly 20-kilometers away from the district headquarter at a village called Sirinder. The village is settled on the lap of the great Harmukh range of snow-capped mountains and is mostly hilly. The entire population depends on the health centre for health services, but an unsafe building has added to their problems. The residents said that they donated land for its construction as authorities promised a quality infrastructure and a better healthcare facility. "They constructed a building that did not last a few months. It can fall anytime," he said. An official said, last year the department deputed its staff in the under-construction building with no formal orders. "We had apprehension that the residents might take over the building and use it for some other purpose. It was a mutual decision of Health and Roads and Building departments," an official at the Roads and Buildings department, said. He, however, feigned ignorance regarding the crumbling of building, saying that the building was incomplete due to lack of funds. The residents alleged that the

GAD, Law Deptt to come up with detailed instructions soon Govt decides not to entertain time barred service matters

Step to ensure closure of thousands of old cases

Mohinder Verma
JAMMU, July 12: In the light of numerous judgments of the Supreme Court and J&K High Court, the Government has decided not to entertain service matters, which are time barred, after a particular time and detailed instructions in this regard will be issued by the General Administration and Law and Justice Departments shortly. Official sources told EXCELSIOR that a detailed discussion on the service matters, which are time barred, was held in a high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta recently. It was observed in the meeting that generally public servants despite being aggrieved over Government actions vis-à-vis service matters approach the courts as per their convenience and concerned departments also

keep on pursuing the cases for years together, which is not a healthy sign, sources said. "The departments are unnecessarily pursuing such cases in the courts although the same is not required at all keeping in view numerous judgments of the Apex Court and High Court of Jammu and Kashmir", sources further said. Accordingly, the Chief Secretary has directed the General Administration Department and the Law Department to examine the desirability of issuing circular instructions stipulating therein that service matters, which are time-barred, shall not be entertained after a particular time limit. "This step will ensure closure of old cases which cannot be resolved after considerable delay on account of various aspects", sources said, adding

"the draft of the instructions has already been prepared and will be finalized after detailed consultations between General Administration Department, Law Department and Finance Department during next week".

The instructions will guide all the departments as to how they are supposed to handle the time-barred service matters in order to reduce burden on the courts as well as Government advocates.

It is pertinent to mention here that Finance Department has already directed all the Administrative Secretaries to direct Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) that no arrears claim which is more than 2 years old, is presented before Treasuries without proper sanction of competent authority and prior concurrence of Finance Department.

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Mehbooba alleges criminalization of dissent, denounces dismissal of Hizb chief's sons

Says Govt can capture a man but not an idea

Nishikant Khajuria
JAMMU, July 12: Denouncing the Government action on dismissal of 11 employees including two sons of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief Sayed Salahuddin on sedition charges, PDP president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said that criminalization of dissent and witch-hunting were taking the country back. "I am not supporting any-



one. But you can't hold a child responsible for actions of his father unless and until you have proof," she said while talking to media persons, here today. Stating that these are not 11 people only but the Government has so far sacked 20-25 employees this year, Mehbooba Mufti said that one can capture a man

flags in my hands. So, until both the Constitutions are not existing together, I have said I will not personally contest elections," Mehbooba maintained.

"Articles 370, 35-A and Domicile laws were not given by a foreign country and event before the nation gave us these, Maharaja had brought it in to protect identity of Dogras, Kashmiri and all locals of J&K, not only Muslims. And when people decided to be part of India, these laws were upheld," she reminded.

Alleging that motive behind scrapping 370 and 35-A was only to loot J&K, Mehbooba Mufti pointed out that people from outside were being given mining contracts and top positions at Chenab Valley Power Projects while J&K's electricity and water were also going outside.

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