

Centre hikes DA by 3 pc

NEW DELHI, Oct 21:

The Union Cabinet today hiked dearness allowance and dearness relief by 3 per cent to 31 per cent, which will benefit about 47.14 lakh Central Government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners.

This was informed by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. The Cabinet gave approval to release an additional instalment of dearness allowance

HC seeks appearance of Comm/Secys

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: As the authorities have failed to demarcate the boundaries of River Sindh, the High Court pulled up and sought personal appearance of Commissioner / Secretaries of Revenue and Irrigation and Flood Control Departments in case they fail to submit the time line and compliance on the issue.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Judicial Officer convicted in rape case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: In a rarest of the rare case in the history of judiciary, Presiding Officer Fast Track Court Khalil Choudhary today convicted suspended Sub-Judge Rajesh Kumar Abrol in a rape case.

According to the police case, on 12.01.2018, complainant laid a written report before Police Station Janipur to

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

IAF much better prepared now: Chaudhari

NEW DELHI, Oct 21:

The situation that developed in eastern Ladakh last year required acclimatisation of a large number of IAF personnel and stretching of equipment to limits, but the force is "much better prepared" now in case there is a "long haul". Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari said.

In an interaction at a defence

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IED defused, youth detained in Poonch; searches continue

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: As search operation for the militants entered 11th day today in Poonch, Army recovered an

■ Pic on page 6

Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and later defused it while a youth was detained for clicking photographs of some locations in Bhimber Gali area of

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Gunfight breaks out at Chanapora

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: A gunfight broke out at Chanapora area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district this evening. A joint team of Police and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in the area. As the troops advanced towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon the party leading to a gunfight.

An official said that militants

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

NIA raids house of shopkeeper

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Jammu and Kashmir Police today raided the house of a shopkeeper in Srinagar. An NIA team accompanied by policemen from MR Gunj raided the house of 26-year-old shopkeeper identified as Yonus Farooq Bhat son of Farooq Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Shah Mohalla in Nawab Bazar.

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Security, dev review, foundation of 2 GMCs, PRI meetings scheduled
Top brass of MHA, CAPFs, Intl agencies to accompany Shah during J&K visit

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be holding high-level review of security situation and development including Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) in Jammu and Kashmir along with Home Secretary AK Bhalla, top officials of the MHA, heads of most of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Intelligence agencies including the Intelligence Bureau, lay foundation stone of two new Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) for Udhampur and Handwara and meet Panchayati Raj representatives besides holding a mega public rally in the temple city during his three-day visit to the UT, from October 23-25, his first after abrogation of special status of erstwhile State and its bifurcation into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Ahead of Shah's visit from October 23, Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh

Dr Jitendra to review arrangements for HM's tour today

is reaching here tomorrow to review arrangements for the visit in both Jammu and Srinagar. Dr Jitendra will meet top officials of civil and police administration in first half of October 22 in Jammu and during second half in Srinagar to give final touch to the arrangements. He will also meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar to discuss the arrangements, schedule of the visit and other connected issues, sources in the Jammu and Kashmir administration told the Excelsior.

Dr Jitendra Singh is the lone Union Minister to accompany Amit Shah during all three days of his visit to the Union Territory, sources said.

"Top officials of the Union Home Ministry including Home Secretary AK Bhalla, the MHA officials Incharge Jammu and Kashmir and heads of most of the CAPFs and Intelligence agencies

including the Intelligence Bureau will attend high-level security review meeting to be chaired by Shah in Srinagar on October 23, the first day of his three-day tour to the Union Territory," sources said.

This will be the first major review of security situation in Jammu and Kashmir by the Union Home Minister in Srinagar post targeted civilian killings by the militants in the Kashmir valley. Dr Jitendra Singh and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha will also attend the meeting.

Sources said a strategy is likely to be drafted in the meeting to tackle sudden spurt in civilian killings and finish militancy in the Valley.

Eleven civilians including non-locals have been killed by the militants in Kashmir during past few days leading to fear psychosis and migration of

labourers from the Valley. The security meeting is expected to come out with a plan for protection of civilians including minorities and non-locals.

"Top brass of MHA, CAPFs and Intelligence agencies from New Delhi and senior officers of all security and Intelligence agencies, operating in the UT besides Jammu and Kashmir Police will attend the security review meeting," sources said.

The Home Minister will also review development works of Jammu and Kashmir including those being executed under the PMDP with top officials of the civil administration in Kashmir. Works under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes will also be reviewed, sources said.

Shah will lay foundation stone of two new Government Medical Colleges (GMC) for Udhampur in Jammu division and Handwara in Kupwara district of Kashmir and inaugurate an IIT block in Jammu on October 24. He will also flag off Srinagar-Sharjah flight.

He will meet Panchayati Raj

Security forces will foil disruption of peace plans: DGP

Won't rest till militancy is eradicated from J&K: LG

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said that those involved in the killing of innocent civilians and members of minority community will have to pay the heavy price for their inhuman acts and that the security forces along with the administration won't rest till militancy is eradicated from

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Jammu and Kashmir. Sinha without naming Pakistan said if someone tries to disrupt the peace in J&K, they will be dealt sternly and there will be a befitting reply from our side.

He said that those trying to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and DGP Dilbag Singh at Police Training Centre Zewan in Srinagar on Thursday.

Addressing the Police Commemoration Day function at Armed Police complex Zewan, Srinagar, the LG said police and the other security forces are doing a commendable job in keeping the peace intact. The LG said that those involved in the gruesome killings of civilians and minority community members are enemies of peace.

"Administration along with police and other security forces won't allow anyone to damage the age-old communal fabric of J&K," Sinha said.

He said that those who killed civilians and minority community members will have to pay the heavy price for their acts. Appealing to civil society and other prominent citizens of J&K to raise voice against civilian killings in Kashmir, the LG said that condemning the heinous and inhuman killings of civilians in one voice will help administration, police and other forces to speed up their operations against militants.

"Today, I want to announce (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Two more held in Phallian Mandal weapon dropping

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Jammu Police today arrested two persons from Anantnag district of Kashmir in October 2 Phallian Mandal weapon dropping case and shifted them to Jammu for questioning.

They have been identified as Selection Grade Constable Ishfaq Malik of Verinag and Ghulam Rasool of Anantnag.

Two persons have been arrested from Anantnag in connection with the weapon dropping case in Phallian Mandal area of Makwal under the jurisdiction of Satiwari Police Station, police sources said.

They said that the duo has been brought to Jammu for further questioning.

The arrested persons were in

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

PM hails landmark reached in 9 months

Vaccine doses cross 100 cr mark

NEW DELHI, Oct 21:

India achieved a major milestone in its vaccination programme against COVID-19 as the cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 100-crore mark today.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the landmark reached in little over nine months time since the country-wide vaccination drive was launched on January 16 as a triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore.

Modi also visited the vaccination centre at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here after the achievement and interacted with hospital staff and some of the beneficiaries. He was accompanied by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

In a tweet, Mandaviya congratulated the country on achieving the feat, and said it was the result of the able leadership of Prime Minister Modi, whom he described as a visionary.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus congratulated Modi, scientists, health workers and citizens of India for equitable vaccine distribution.

"Congratulations, Prime Minister @narendramodi, the scientists, #healthworkers and people of #India, on your efforts to protect the vulnerable populations from #COVID19 and

The same tricolour with dimensions 225 feet by 150 feet was unfurled on Gandhi Jayanti in Leh. An announcement was made at railway stations across the country hailing the comple-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting a beneficiary during his visit to the vaccination center at Ram Manohar Lohia hospital in New Delhi on Thursday. (UNI)

achieve #VaccinEquity targets," he said in a tweet.

A series of events were held to mark the milestone including launch of a song by singer Kailash Kher and an audio-visual film at the Red Fort, while the largest khadi tricolour in the country, weighing around 1,400 kg, was displayed at the iconic Red Fort today.

tion of administering 100 crore doses and congratulating frontline and healthcare workers for their efforts during the crisis.

SpiceJet unveiled a special livery on its Boeing 737 aircraft at the Delhi airport to celebrate the milestone. The livery bearing an image of Modi and healthcare workers

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

HC seeks status of criminal cases against politicians

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: The High Court today directed the Governments of J&K and Ladakh to inform it about the criminal cases pending against the Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies and other politicians in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh and to constitute a special court for progress of their cases within one month.

The High Court was hearing suo-moto cognizance on the directions of the Supreme Court counsels appearing for JK UT and Ladakh prayed for some time to inform the court in this regard and the court while allowing their request directed for complying with directions

within one month.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice V C Koul have taken the suo moto cognizance on the directions of Supreme Court and asked both the Counsels appearing on behalf of UTs of J&K and Ladakh to give the updated status of all criminal cases which are pending before the court of law against the politicians.

The three judge bench of Supreme Court in a matter while passing a direction to all the High Courts of the country asked the Chief Justices of respective High Courts while preparing the action plan also consider, in the event the trials against any politician is already ongoing in an expeditious manner, whether transferring the same to different courts would

be necessary and appropriate.

The CJs of HCs, Supreme Court asked shall designate a special bench, comprising themselves and their designate in order to monitor the progress of these trials. "The CJs shall send their additional suggestions, if any, for the purpose of expedient disposal of pending criminal cases against the legislators", the Supreme Court said.

"The action plan with comments and suggestions of the CJs of the High Courts, are to be sent to the Secretary General of this court preferably within a week", the SC said. It has further been asked to CJs to list forthwith all pending criminal cases involving sitting or former legislators, particularly those where-

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

BJP propagating divisive politics

Hate has become weapon to win elections in India: Farooq

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Describing "hate" as a weapon to win elections in India, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah today alleged that the BJP is spreading it to win the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh early next year.

Abdullah called upon people to fight hate to save Jammu and Kashmir as well as the country.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

and warned that if hatred continues to grow, India's disintegration cannot be stopped.

"We have to fight communalism. We have to bring down the wall of hatred being created between Hindus and Muslims.

We have to end this hatred. Without this, neither India survives nor this State (J&K). If we

based on which elections are being won since Independence. "...I have seen this in every elec-



NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah addressing party workers in Jammu on Thursday.

have to save India, we have to put an end to this hate," Abdullah told his party workers here.

He said that the politics of hate has been made a weapon

tion since Independence. Muslim leaders and Hindu leaders go to Hindu areas," he said.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Picturesque houses open for tourists

Women in Ladakh village turn homestay hosts

LEH, Oct 21:

Opening their picturesque homes for tourists has been the way towards empowerment, both social and financial, for women in Ladakh's Phyang village who have long worked unseemingly as cook, cleaner and farm worker - and are now finding new confidence as mini-entrepreneurs.

With many of the men working for the Army and away from home for months, the women of Phyang, a mountain village about 15 km from Leh with great views of rugged peaks and cloudy laden blue skies, are slowly coming into their own as homestay hosts.

"After all these years of being at home, I feel like I am not even

smart enough to talk to people but I think being a host will help me interact with more people, and also help brush up my Hindi," Tsering Dolker, a 36-year-old host, said.

Her husband is currently posted as a 'hawaladar' in Berchok glacier, and is home for barely two months in a year.

Tsering, who gave up her job as a data operator in Doodardshan soon after she got married, has spent much of the years since bringing up her two boys aged seven and 13, and farming, selling the wheat and potato from her land to make a living.

The opportunity of earning a living by hosting travellers in her home has come as a "convenient" solution to all her problems.

"At this point, we don't have many money issues because my husband has a good salary. But he will retire in another two years and the cost of our children's education is only expected to increase. So earning through this homestay will help a huge deal," she said.

Tsering has a traditional Ladakhi home, with five rooms, two of which the family has kept. The remaining have been registered on Airbnb.

The online travel portal has tied up with non-profit organisation Self Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) for Hum Sab Ek, an initiative that is looking at empowering women to become micro-

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Pak to remain on FATF's 'Grey List'

NEW DELHI, Oct 21:

Pakistan will continue to be on the 'Grey List' of the FATF as it needs to "further demonstrate" that action is being taken against UN-designated terrorists like India's most wanted Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar, the global body against terror financing said today.

Addressing a press conference, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) president Marcus Pleyer said the decision was taken at the conclusion of the virtual plenary of the organisation.

Pakistan continues to remain on the "increased monitoring list", he said at a virtual press conference from Paris on Thursday. Increased monitoring list is another name for the 'Grey List'.

Inclusion in the 'Grey List' implies "strategic deficiencies" (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

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