

LG expresses gratitude to PM for ex-gratia

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, July 26: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh in favour of next of Kin of all those who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident of flash-flood near Shri Amarnath ji cave on July 8. The Prime Minister's Office has also sanctioned Rs 50,000 (Contd on page 4 Col 2)

10 police officers transferred

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, July 26: The Government today ordered transfer and postings of 10 police officers with immediate effect. According to the order, Umesh Kumar, awaiting posting in the Police Headquarters has been posted as SO to ADGP Railways J&K, while Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, awaiting posting in the Police Headquarters has (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

JeM comdr among 5 charge sheeted

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, July 26: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) today filed a charge sheet against five persons including a Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad commander in a militant funding case registered last year after the recovery of Rs 43 lakh from a Kashmir-bound vehicle. (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

No KP resigned from Govt job after terror attacks: Centre

NEW DELHI, July 26: No Kashmiri Pandit working under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) has resigned in protest against the killings of fellow community members in the Valley by terrorists, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha today. Rai also said that a total of 5,502 Kashmiri Pandits have (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

No GST exemption for Haj, Umrah tours: SC

NEW DELHI, July 26: The Supreme Court today dismissed a batch of petitions filed by various private tour operators seeking exemption from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the Haj and Umrah tours offered by them. The petitions seeking exemption had alleged discrimination against the pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Corona cases in J&K close to 700, 31 in Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, July 26: COVID cases in Jammu and Kashmir today reached close to 700 while the Union Territory of Ladakh recorded 31 fresh positives. Out of 697 new cases in the UT, 416 were recorded in Kashmir division and 281 in Jammu region. Jammu district accounted (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

HC directs for adoption of NEP

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, July 26: The High Court today directed the authorities to adopt the National Education Policy (NEP) formulated by the Government of India with regard to admission of children in private institutions. The Division Bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani after having gone through the Public (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'Life or death don't matter for jawans, duty matters'

Govts come and go but those who sacrifice lives for nation are immortal: PM

Sanjeev Pargal
Pres, Vice Pres, DM pay tribute to bravehearts of Kargil

JAMMU, July 26: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi today led the nation in paying tribute to the Army soldiers who fought courageously and bravely in Kargil heights from May to July in 1999 and won the war against Pakistani invaders who had captured the hills.

and 'Veer Matas' who gave birth to them. "Can you imagine the enemy was at top of the hills and our Army was fighting them from the plains. But the glory of 'Ma Bharti'." "On this occasion, I salute all the brave sons of the country who achieved the height of valour while defending the motherland. Jai Hind," he said in a



Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh paying homage to the fallen heroes at National War Memorial on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas in New Delhi on Tuesday.

victory was not of those who were on the hills but our soldiers who displayed true bravery and courage," Modi said. He described Kargil Vijay Diwas as a symbol of pride and

ice heights of Kargil in Ladakh. The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the war. "Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of extraordinary bravery, valour and determination of our armed forces. I bow to all the brave soldiers who laid down their lives to protect Mother India. The country will always be indebted to them and their family members. Jai Hind," President Murmu, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, tweeted in Hindi.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said the nation will forever remain "indebted to the martyrs of Kargil for their supreme sacrifice". "On Kargil Vijay Diwas, I pay my humble tribute to our valiant soldiers who displayed unwavering patriotism and unmatched gallantry in protecting our nation in 1999," Naidu's office quoted him as saying in a tweet. (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Modi said wars are not fought by the Governments but entire country as the Governments come and go but those who sacrifice their lives for the nation are immortal.

In a four-minute video tagged to his twitter message on Kargil Vijay Diwas today, Modi said the Army soldiers sacrifice their lives for next generations so that our future is secure. "Life or death don't matter for them. It is duty that matters for the soldiers," he said. Asserting that the Army soldiers sacrifice their everything for nation, the Prime Minister said he salutes them (the jawans)

Question Hour conducted amid slogan shouting

Oppn uproar in Rajya Sabha as 19 MPs suspended

NEW DELHI, July 26: Monsoon session on July 18 to press for immediate discussion on price rise and the levy of the GST on daily essentials, were suspended as they did not heed Deputy Chairman Harvansh's repeated pleas to leave the well of the House and go back to

their seats. Four Congress MPs - Manickam Tagore, TN Prathapan, Jothimani and Ramya Haridas - had been suspended on Monday in Lok Sabha for disrupting proceedings, deepening the standoff between the Opposition and the government, which is maintaining that it is ready to hold the discussion once Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recovers from COVID-19.



Suspended Rajya Sabha MPs staging a protest at Parliament House during the Monsoon session in New Delhi on Tuesday. (UNI)

Rajya Sabha today saw uproar by the Opposition after the suspension of its 19 members for the entire week for repeatedly disrupting proceedings, with the penalised MPs refusing to leave the House. There were four adjournments till 3:40 pm as the Opposition refused to relent, and later the House was adjourned for the day, without transacting much business.

The opposition MPs, who have been stalling the proceedings since the start of the

'Youth urged to take inspiration from jawans'

Every soldier will stand steadfast to protect nation: Army Comdr

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 26: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi today said every soldier of Indian Armed Forces will stand steadfast in his 'Dharma' of protecting the nation and if need be, make the supreme sacrifice beyond the call of duty.

year to commemorate India's spectacular victory over Pakistan on this day in 1999. apart as a lesson to each citizen and motivate youth to achieve the greater good, the Northern



General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Northern Command Lt General Upendra Dwivedi addressing a gathering at Dress in Kargil on Tuesday.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Lt Gen Dwivedi was addressing a gathering after a wreath laying ceremony held at Kargil War Memorial in Drass to pay tribute to soldiers who lost lives in the 1999 Kargil war. The Kargil "Vijay Diwas" (victory day) is celebrated every

Commander said in his address. My similar message to the citizens of the country is every (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

18 years on, SDH Qaimoh far from completion

Suhail Bhat
SRINAGAR, July 26: The construction work on a 50-bed sub-district hospital in Qaimoh area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district remains incomplete despite the passing of 18 years since the project began. The Government announced plans to expand the current Primary Health Centre and construct a 50-bed sub-district hospital in Qaimoh at a cost of Rs 19.32 crores. In addition to having inadequate space and being in bad condition, the PHC was unable to handle the influx of patients. Construction began in 2008 but was suspended in

2016 due to lack of funds. The project's construction was put on hold for three years due to alleged irregularities in funds spending, according to officials with knowledge of the issue. The Government formed a three-person committee to investigate how money was being spent, but the report was never made public. "I think there were no problems detected by the committee, which explains why the report was never made public," an official explained. The hospital building is still unfinished, in part, because the government never provided the necessary funds at the appropriate time, according to official sources. The start of construction projects has repeatedly been delayed due to funding issues. Additionally, unsavory elements like drug users and gamblers commonly use the site for illegal activities. "The project was delayed as a result of a lack of funding. However, the issue has now rectified. The funds are now available," an official said. Locals alleged that because of the poor quality of healthcare services, they were forced to rely on pricey and unregulated local private healthcare. "Low-income people cannot afford private clinics, and the quality of (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Rape cases decline; kidnapping, molestation, cruelty witness surge

Over 10% increase in crime against women in J&K UT

Mohinder Verma
JAMMU, July 26: Over 10% increase has been witnessed in crime against the women in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in a year despite the tall claims of the Government about leaving no stone unturned to ensure safe environment for the fairer sex. The prevailing situation demands the civil society and all the concerned Government agencies to work together in order to prevent the situation from turning worse in the coming years. As per the official data, the copy of which is available with EXCELSIOR, a total of 3517 cases under different heads of crime against women were registered in the year 2020 while as

during the year 2021 the number increased to 3873, which is more than 10% rise. While rape cases witnessed decline in 2021 as compared to 2020, there was significant rise in kidnapping, molestation and cruelty cases. In 2020, a total of 365 rape cases were registered in Jammu and Kashmir while as in 2021 year, 326 rape cases were registered. Though a decline was witnessed in rape cases yet the same doesn't indicate that situation has improved as on the other side the kidnapping/abduction of women and girls, their molestation and cruelty cases witnessed increase. There were 811 kidnapping/abduction cases in 2020 but the number increased to 963 in 2021. Similarly,

molestation cases increased to 1849 in 2021 from 1754 in 2020. Even dowry death cases witnessed increase in 2021 with 16 married women losing their lives due to the greediness of their in-laws as compared to only 9 cases in 2020. The cases relating to cruelty by husband/his relatives witnessed surge in 2021 with 501 women being victimized as compared to 349 women in the year 2020. The cases under Dowry Prohibition Act and Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act also witnessed slight increase in 2021 as compared to 2020. The three districts in Jammu province which registered less number of cases of crime against women were Kishtwar (46) followed by Samba (50) and Reasi

(63). Likewise in Kashmir valley, Handwara (67), Awantipora (79) and Pulwama (86) were the districts which reported less number of cases as compared to other districts. As far as rape offence is concerned, Jammu district reported 53 cases followed by Rajouri (32) and Poonch (24) while as in Kashmir valley the maximum rape cases were reported from Kulgam (23), Srinagar (21) and Kupwara (18). Pointing towards the figures of last few years, the observers said that crime against women is increasing constantly and prevailing situation clearly establishes that present measures to tackle the same are not yielding the desirable results as such all the (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Heroin worth Rs 24 crore, Rs 11 lakh cash seized, 3 arrested

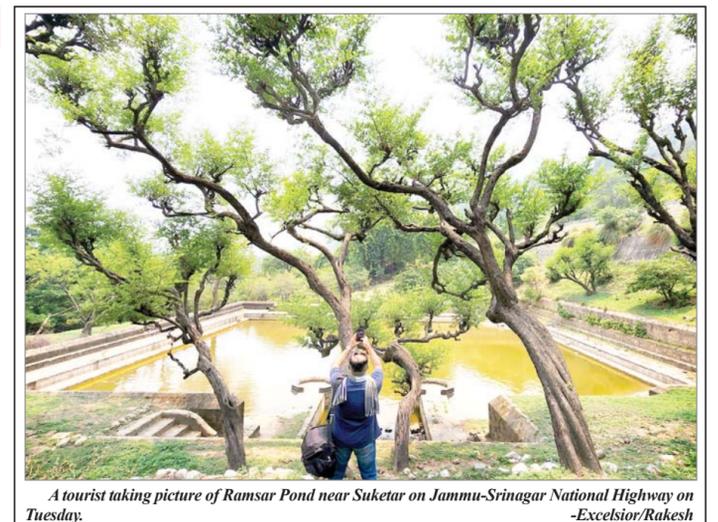
Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 26: Bahu Fort Police seized heroin worth Rs 24 crore probably dropped by drones and Rs 11 lakh cash and arrested three persons. Divulging the details, ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh said that on specific information a team from Police Station Bahu Fort led by SHO Inspector Nayat Ali under the supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari, SP South Mamta Sharma and SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli laid a naka and intercepted a Verna car bearing registration number PB02CQ-7749. "During checking, police (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

5 J&K districts slow in giving dose-2 of COVID vaccine to 12-14 age group

Irfan Trambo
SRINAGAR, July 26: Five districts of Jammu and Kashmir - 2 in Kashmir and 3 in Jammu - are lagging behind in administering the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to those falling in the age group of 12-14 years. In this regard, as per details, districts that are lagging behind in dose-2 of the vaccine in the said age group include Srinagar, Jammu, Bandipora, Kishtwar and Samba. The figures suggest that in district Srinagar, there is a total target population of 60465 in the 12-14 years age group, out of

which 49584 have received their first dose, which is 82%, while 37885 have received their second dose, which is 63%. At the same time, in the 15-17 age group, in the district, 87% of the beneficiaries have been covered. In Bandipora, there is a total target population of 19175 in the 12-14 years age group, out of which, 16719 have received their first dose which is 87% while only 9564, which is 50%, have received their second COVID-19 vaccine. The district, in the age group 15-17, has covered 93% of the beneficiaries. Jammu, which has recorded the lowest numbers in the administration of the second dose to the 12-14 years age

group, has a total target population of 74795, out of which 45858, which is 61%, have received the first dose while as only 31365, which is 42%, lowest in the lowest across J&K, have received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Similarly, Kishtwar has a total target population of 11278 in the 12-14 years age group, of which 7339, which accounts for 65%, have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination, while 5769, which accounts for 51%, have received their second COVID-19 vaccine dose. In the district, nearly 99% of the beneficiaries have been covered in the 15-17 age group. (Contd on page 4 Col 5)



A tourist taking picture of Ramsar Pond near Suketar on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Rahul detained during Cong protest

ED records Sonia's statement in Herald money laundering case

NEW DELHI, July 26: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today recorded Congress president Sonia Gandhi's statement on the second day of questioning in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper, officials said.



Cong president Sonia Gandhi on way to ED office (left) and Rahul Gandhi sitting on dharna (right) in New Delhi on Tuesday.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Sonia Gandhi, who was questioned for 6 hours before lunch and rejoined after a break, had reached the ED office in central Delhi around 11 am accompanied by her Z+ armed security and her children Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. She left the ED office at 7 pm. While Priyanka Gandhi stayed back with her, Rahul Gandhi left soon after and joined the Congress protest at Vijay Chowk before being detained by the police. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was in a separate room at the ED office so she could meet her mother to provide medicines or medical assistance if necessary, they said. Sonia Gandhi's questioning and recording of state-

ments began around 11.15 am after initial formalities, including the verification of summons and signing the attendance sheet, were completed. She was questioned for over two hours on July 21. She replied to 28 questions put forth by the agency. The Lok Sabha MP from Rae Bareilly is understood to have been asked questions pertaining to her involvement with the National Herald newspaper and the company under scanner in the case, Young Indian Pvt Ltd. Tuesday's questioning ses-

sion could see the agency asking Sonia Gandhi questions on the functioning and running of the newspaper, the role of its various office bearers, and her and her son's participation in the affairs of the National Herald and Young Indian. The agency will also match her statement with that of Rahul Gandhi as both are majority stakeholders in Young Indian, officials said. The questioning of the Gandhis pertains to the charge of alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted (Contd on page 4 Col 5)