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SC orders release of 6 convicts in Rajiv Gandhi killing
 NEW DELHI, Nov 11:

The Supreme Court today directed the premature release of six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan and R P Ravichandran, serving life term in the assassination case of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, noting that the Tamil Nadu Government has recommended remission of their sentence.

Besides Nalini and Ravichandran, the four others to (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Govt directs strict adherence to biometric attendance
 Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 11: The UT Government today directed strict adherence to biometric attendance in its offices, PSUs, Institutions and Corporations and asked Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to furnish daily Action Taken Report (ATR) in this regard to the General Administration Department.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)
DySP arrested by ACB taking graft
 Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 11: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) this evening arrested red handed a DySP of Crime Branch for demanding and accepting an amount of Rs 50,000 as bribe from the complainant.

The arrest was made from outside Bahu Plaza in Trikuta Nagar when the DySP took the (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Rakesh Ch arrested in Punjab
 Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 11: Punjab Police today arrested Jammu-based contractor Rakesh Chaudhary for alleged illegal mining on the complaint of the Mining Department.

He was taken into custody from Maharaja Ranjit Singh Bagh in Ropar district of Punjab. Soon after Chaudhary's arrest, Mining Minister of Punjab Harjot Singh Bains tweeted: "Biggest ever crackdown on illegal mining mafia. (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Grenades recovered in Rajouri
 Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 11: Police and Army today busted a terrorist hideout and recovered cache of arms and ammunition in Rajouri district.

Police said that five hand grenades, six detonators and one AK rifle magazine with 30 bullets were recovered from the hideout.

It said that teams of Budhal police station, SOG and Samote based Rashtriya Rifles launched a joint search operation in Jalamang forest area of Targain village in Budhal. (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

IAF's Western Command reviews Ladakh situation
 NEW DELHI, Nov 11:

The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Western Command has reviewed its overall security scenario along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh as well as other areas of its operation during a two-day conclave.

In his address at the conclave that concluded today, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari directed all Commanders under the Western Command to ensure (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

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5 DG sets phased out by providing Grid connectivity

Most of 40 helipads approved for Ladakh, one Hangar at Sindhu Ghat completed: MHA

Sanjeev Pargal **Environment Ministry preparing strategy documents**

JAMMU, Nov 11: The Government of India has approved Rs 25 crore for construction/upgradation of 40 helipads in the Union Territory of Ladakh including two Hangars for stationing of helicopters. Most of these helipads and one Hangar at Sindhu Ghat in Leh have been completed.

Construction of such a large number of helipads and two Hangars gained significance as they come amid ongoing tension between Indian and Chinese militaries along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

"An amount of Rs 25 crore has been approved for construction and upgradation of more than 40 helipads in both Leh and Kargil districts and two Hangars for stationing of helicopters—one each in two districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Most of these helipads and one Hangar at Sindhu Ghat, Leh have been completed," the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) annual report on

Ladakh, said. The helicopter services have turned out to be of immense benefit for the people of Ladakh. The MHA report said under the subsidized helicopter service scheme, two helicopters are being operated by Pawan Hans Limited in various sectors of Ladakh through Online booking system. About 3600 passengers have availed the helicopter services and more than 60 critical patients and emergency evacuations have been airlifted by the UT administration through the helicopter services, it added.

As per the report, following commissioning and strengthening of 220 KV Srinagar-Leh transmission line, there has been a major improvement in reliable power supply in Ladakh and five DG sets have been phased out by providing Grid connectivity during 2021-22 as a step towards carbon-neutral Ladakh.

"Work on 220 KV transmission line from Pihyang to Diskit, Nubra and Drass to Padum, Zaskar has been started with a

project cost of Rs 1309.72 crore. With completion of the transmission line, Nubra and Zaskar will get 24x7 power supply through the Grid," the MHA report said.

It added that a 50 MW Solar Power Project at Taru, Leh approved under Prime Minister's Development Plan (PMDP), has been taken up by the SECI for execution and completion of project will reduce load on 220 KV Srinagar-Leh transmission line during winter and also during peak demand.

The Transport Department of Ladakh has also taken steps towards carbon-neutral Ladakh by procuring 10 electric buses for public transport, of which, two are already in operation in Ladakh. In addition, the Transport Department is also procuring 10 electric cars inclusive of solar charging car port during current financial year for use in the Government, as per the report.

The Government has also undertaken various developmental initiatives for empowerment of Panchayats under SDP, State Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes which are at various stages of execution. Major components towards development of rural infrastructure include Panchayat Ghars, BDC and BDO offices in every block and Common Facility Centres for providing internet enabled G2C services in all 193 Panchayat Ghars at a cost of Rs 5790 lakh. Construction of 27 CFCs has been completed.

The MHA report said Ladakh Gram Sadak Yojana is a UT initiative toward providing road connectivity to all Panchayats and Panch Wards of Ladakh under which 71 roads are being constructed and 30 roads have been completed this year.

"As an initiative towards data connectivity, V-SAT and internet facilities in all 193 Panchayats are being provided under Bharat Net. IT infrastructure for all Panchayats and Block Development (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Joint Secy MHA reviews progress, seeks Transaction Advisor report

Pahalgam Club, JKTDC huts at Patnitop among 12 assets selected for outsourcing

Mohinder Verma **Exercise to be completed by middle of next year**

JAMMU, Nov 11: Pahalgam Club, Ashoka Hotel at Jammu and huts of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC) at Patnitop are among 12 assets in the Union Territory which have been identified for outsourcing and entire exercise will be completed by middle of next year while as more such properties will be identified in the Phase-II.

This information has been provided by the Tourism Department to the Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs Ashutosh Agnihotri, who chaired a meet-

ing at Golf Course Jammu yesterday to review the progress on the decision about outsourcing of tourism assets in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism Jammu, Director Tourism Kashmir, Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Pahalgam Development Authority, Gulmarg Development Authority and Patnitop Development Authority.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that the Union Joint Secretary was apprised that a total of 12 assets—9 in Jammu and 3 in Kashmir have been identified for outsourcing as per the decision taken by the Government of Union Territory last year. The three assets in Kashmir are—Pahalgam Club being run by JKTDC, a hotel at Gulmarg being managed by Gulmarg Development Authority and Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC). Similarly, among the 9 assets in Jammu are huts of JKTDC at Patnitop and Kud and Ashoka Hotel at Jammu.

The Joint Secretary was further informed that as suggested by the Transaction Advisor a decision has been taken to invite single tender for all these 12 assets. However, the Joint Secretary conveyed different opinion to the officers and accordingly sought report of the Transaction Advisor, sources informed, adding "the Joint Secretary is of the opinion that there may be little response to single tender for all these assets and floating different tenders would be most viable option. However, exact decision will be taken after examination of Transaction Advisor report".

The officers of the Tourism Department conveyed to the Joint Secretary MHA that (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Govt initiates action on package, other employees for unauthorized absence

Avtar Bhat **Notices served by various Deptts**

JAMMU, Nov 11: The UT Government has initiated action against the package, non package and reserved category employees posted in Kashmir who have left the Valley since May 12 this year following selective killings by militants.

As per sources, various Government departments including State Taxes, Finance, Education, Social Welfare, PWD etc have sought explanation from these employees for their un-authorised absence and failure to comply with the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir's order issued last month making it mandatory for all Government employees of Kashmir valley to switch over to biometric attendance in their respective offices.

Citing the Divisional Commissioner's letter, the State Taxes Officer, Anantnag Circle 2nd J&K has sought an explanation from all Sub Inspectors (SIs) of the Department appointed under PM package for their prolonged absence.

The letter issued to these SIs by the STO Anantnag, read "Whereas you have remained unauthorisedly absent from duty and your whereabouts are not known by this office since you joined this office after completion of your training".

The letter further reads: "Whereas you have neither informed telephonically nor sub-

mitted any leave application regarding your absence from duty".

The other contents of the letter are "Whereas as per Divisional Commissioner Kashmir's Circular vide No DIVCOM/Dev/27/2022/11272-340 dated 8-10-2022 all the employees were directed to switch to the biometric attendance, but you have failed to register yourself till date".

"Whereas as directed by Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Kashmir Division, Srinagar vide letter No G C /INF/PMP / ADM/2357-59/ACSTK dated 25-10-2022, you are hereby directed to (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Death of infants in Ramnagar due to spurious cough syrup SC dismisses Govt plea against NHRC order on compensation

Nishikant Khajuria **NHRC order, the amount was given to the victim families with a rider subject to outcome of the Special Leave Petition filed in the Supreme Court, which was decided today.**

A bench of Justice M R Shah and Justice M M Sundresh said that officers of J&K Government were found to be negligent and it does find any reason to interfere in the matter. "Your officers are found to be negligent. They ought to have been vigilant. Don't compel us to say things about food and industry department. The health of citizens is in their hands. They don't perform duties at all. They can't play with the lives of citizens. It is their duty to check and (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

verify things," the bench observed while hearing the SLP filed by J&K administration challenging the March 3, 2021, order of the High Court which had dismissed its plea against the NHRC order.

It may be recalled that 12 children had died in Ramnagar tehsil in December 2019 and January 2020 due to consumption of spurious cough syrup. Taking cognizance of a complaint in this regard by social activist Suresh Khajuria, the NHRC found procedural lapses on the part of the Drugs Department and on January 18, 2021 recommended compensation of Rs 3 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased children.

Urging the High Court to quash the NHRC order on compensation and all proceedings in relations thereto, the UT Government filed a writ petition, which was dismissed by the Division Bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mittal and Justice Sindhu Sharma on March 2, 2021 following which a SLP was filed by the Government in the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, on May 6, 2021, NHRC sought compliance report along with proof of payment from the Government within six weeks positively and warned to use coercive power of the Commission calling for personal appearance of the authority concerned in case of failure to (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Pak militant killed in Shopian gun battle; 4 militant associates of LeT arrested

Fayaz Bukhari **Additional Director General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar said here that foreign JeM militant Kamran Bhai alias Hanees was killed in a gunfight at Kapran area of South Kashmir's Shopian district today.**

SRINAGAR, Nov 11: Security forces today killed a Pakistani militant of Jaish-e-Mohammad in Shopian area of South Kashmir while four mil-



Security forces near an encounter site at Kapran area of Shopian on Friday. Another pic on page 6. -Excelsior/Younis Khaliq

He termed the operation as a big success as a possible threat of Fidayeen and other militant attacks were thwarted by his elimination.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

He said that acting on specific information generated by police regarding presence of the militant in Kapran area of Shopian, a joint cordoned and search operation was launched by Police, and 34-RR of Army. "First of all, teachers and students were (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

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