

CBI quizzes Malik for 5 hours

NEW DELHI, Apr 28: The CBI questioned former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik for nearly five hours today in connection with its probe into the alleged insurance scam in the Union Territory.

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Territory which came to light after his statement that he was offered bribes to clear related files, officials said.

A Central Bureau of (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Register cases in hate speeches: SC

NEW DELHI, Apr 28: Extending the scope of its 2022 order beyond three States, the Supreme Court today directed all States and Union Territories to register cases against those making hate speeches even if no complaint has been made.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna termed hate speeches a "serious offence capable of affecting secular fabric of the country".

The bench said its October 21, 2022 order shall be made (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

38 COVID +ve cases in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 28: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 38 fresh COVID-19 positive cases, 19 each from both Jammu as well as Kashmir divisions.

The maximum number of 15 cases were reported from Jammu district, followed by 7 from Kupwara, 2 each from Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Budgam, Kulgam, and Udhampur and Kupwara, and one case each from Doda, Samba, Pulwama and

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HC quashes 6 PSAs, upholds one

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Apr 28: The High Court has quashed six detention orders passed under J&K Public Safety Act and directed the release of the detainees.

The court quashed the PSA of Mudasir Ahmad Parray of Pakherpora Budgam, Feroz Ahmad Zargar of Qaimoh Kulgam, Javeed Ahmad Lone of Bandipora, Umar Rashid Ganie of Batengoo Anantnag, Siraj-ud-Din of Rajouri Kadal

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GPF to accrue 7.1% interest

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 28: The Government today said that the balance in subscribers' General Provident Fund (GPF) accounts will accrue interest at a rate of 7.1% for the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24, which runs from April 1st, 2023 to June 30th, 2023.

An order issued in this context read, "It is hereby ordered that the accumulations at the credit of subscribers to General Provident Fund (GPF) shall

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Avalanche warning issued; widespread rain in Kashmir, snowfall in Gulmarg

***Traffic suspended on NH for 4 hrs**
Fayaz Bukhari/ Gopal Sharma
SRINAGAR/ JAMMU, Apr 28: Many parts of Jammu and Kashmir were lashed by widespread rains since yesterday while there was light overnight snowfall in

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Ski resort of Gulmarg which to the delight of the tourists while traffic on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was disrupted for about four hours due to landslide in Ramban sector. There were incessant rains

Ladakh will be made hub of tourism: Anurag PM virtually inaugurates 91 FM transmitters including world's highest at Nyoma in Leh

Sanjeev Pargal
***Modi fulfilled years old demand of UT status**

JAMMU, Apr 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated 91 FM transmitters in various States and Union Territories including Ladakh.

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The ceremony was also joined in Leh by Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Services & Sports Anurag Thakur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brig (Retd) BD Mishra, Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and CEC LAHDC Leh Tashi Gyalson.

This would revolutionize the Radio industry, Modi said in his address after virtually inaugurating the FM transmitters covering two crore people across 85 districts.

Asserting that the Government initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, and Har Ghar Tiranga became people's

ter was in line with the Government policy to give preference to the underprivileged who have been deprived of this facility so far. "Those who were considered to be distant will now get a chance to connect at a

greater level," Modi said. Anurag Thakur said in Leh: "Today another record has been established. Nyoma has the world's highest transmitter at an altitude of 4100.

movements through 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi said: "Therefore, in a way, I'm part of your All India Radio team". The Prime Minister said the inauguration of 91 FM transmitters

culture," Thakur said. "This is a historic move. This will be very helpful in transmitting entertainment, sports, and farming information to the local people. Mann ki Baat increased the popularity of radio," Thakur said.

Explaining the details of the launch, Thakur said that with the launch of the 91 FM Transmitters, another record has been established with the world's highest transmitter installed at an altitude of 4100 in Ladakh's

Nyoma. He said the Government is working towards making Ladakh as a hub of tourism.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled years long demand of Ladakh's (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

'Transformative reform in education'

NEP encourages knowledge, innovation, independent thinking : LG

Excelsior Correspondent

VARANASI, Apr 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the National Seminar on "National Education Policy-2020: Exploring the Prospects" at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi, today.

He highlighted various aspects of the National Education Policy and shared the vision to meet the challenges of future workplace. "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NEP 2020 has brought transformative reform in education. It has ensured that education system meets the challenges of 21st century and enables youth to become job giver rather than job seeker," said the LG.

The National Education Policy encourages Knowledge, Innovation and Independent thinking for students' Holistic Development. Global outlook with an emphasis on Indian knowledge tradition makes the learning a lifelong process, observed the LG.

He said the latest innovations in Artificial Intelligence will have greater impact on fourth industrial revolution. He said, since automation is changing workplaces across the world, youth will need reskilling, tech upskilling & mental flexibility to adapt to ever-changing needs of the industry.

Sinha called upon the Universities & educational institutions to focus on 6Cs - Curiosity, Choice, Collaboration, Creativity, Communication and Critical Thinking, to empower youth. Our campuses & classrooms should reflect the change and issues affecting the world, he added.

He also highlighted the advantages of multidisciplinary Education. "Education nurtures our soul. NEP emphasises on establishing balance in living & life and to inculcate the desire for lifelong learning process. Real education in the true sense starts from where the syllabus ends and a student begins to discover him or herself," said the LG

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Weapons came from Pak through drones: DGP

Mendhar terror plot uncovered, 3 OGWs among 6 arrested by police

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 28: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh today said that the terror plot in last week's ambush at Bhatta Durrian in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch district in which five Army bravehearts sacrificed their lives has been uncovered and six locals have been arrested for sheltering the militants before they carried out the attack on an Army vehicle using explosives and weapons that came from Pakistan through drones.

Dilbag said the April 20 attack was a well-planned one and executed by three to five militants. They first did a reconnaissance

"Six persons (of a module) have been arrested. They include those who have provided material (weapons, ammunition, explosives) to the militants besides shelter and food and guided them from one to another place," Singh told reporters during a visit to the border district of Rajouri.

Police identified three arrested persons as Nissar Ahmad, Farid Ahmad and Mushtaq, all residents of Gursai. All of them have turned out to be the Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and had helped the militants in (Contd on page 6 Col 3)



Woman works on her mountain fields near Jungle Gali of Udhampur district. -Excelsior/Rakesh

DMs conclave from SCO countries

Need to root out terror collectively, fix accountability on support: Rajnath

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Apr 28: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today urged the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member nations to collectively work towards eliminating terrorism in all its forms and fix accountability on its supporters, in an oblique reference to Pakistan.

Chairing a conclave of Defence Ministers from SCO countries, Singh said India envisioned a robust framework of regional cooperation which "mutually respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member states by taking care of their legitimate interests".

With Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu listening, Singh also said that New Delhi strives to further bolster trust and cooperation among the members of the grouping as it believes in maintaining peace and security based on the provisions of the UN charter.

Elaborating on the need to contain terrorism effectively, Singh asserted that any kind of terrorist act or support to it in any form is a major crime against humanity and peace and prosperity cannot coexist with

meeting in person. It is learnt that the Pakistani representative joined the deliberations virtually.

Sharing his insights on the vision to ensure collective prosperity, Singh called for concerted efforts by the SCO member states so that the region, with limitless possibilities in today's multilateral world, shifts to the mindset of 'great gain from win-win paradigm' from 'great game of zero-sum, win-lose paradigm'.

"India has always followed the principle of 'Let us walk (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

'They will be feeling pain due to roaring success'

Y20 pre-summit in Leh befitting reply to those who tried to spread fear, confusion: Minister

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Apr 28: Union Minister Anurag Thakur today said that the successful hosting of the Y20 pre-summit here was a befitting reply to those who had "tried to spread fear and confusion" ahead of the event.

Without naming any country, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports said those who tried to "spread fear and confusion" would now be feeling the "pain" due to the "roaring success" of the three-day event.

Though China, which skipped the Y-20 Pre-Summit here, has not made any public statement against the event, its close ally Pakistan had objected to organising of G20-related events in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The Y20 Pre-Summit was held in Leh as part of the country's G20 presidency, but China was the only member in the group of nations not to send its youth contingent.

At a press conference, Thakur, who was here on the concluding day of the event where 103 delegates from 30 countries participated and deliberated on several global issues, said, "The (Y20) debate was very successful on the (listed) topics. When I say that the Y20 Pre-Summit was very successful

ful, then some people would certainly have felt the pain. Those who before the Y20 (Pre) summit tried to spread fear and confusion... Going to the extent of saying that this event should not take place in Leh. (But) it happened in Leh and was very successful. I say this on record."

He also said that India was setting new benchmarks in the hosting of G20.

"It is a privilege for India that we are celebrating the country's 75 years of independence and also presiding over the G20. Several countries before us have held the G20 presidency chair and would have made great efforts for its success. But the G20

happening in India is setting new records," said Thakur. He added that the culture and heritage of the country had left foreign delegates spellbound.

"The discussions, deliberations and meetings (in G20) are going along very well. On the other hand, India's rich art and cultural heritage has mesmerised around 12,000 people who have visited the country (so far for various G20 meetings)."

"And when I say this sitting here in Leh, you can well understand why this place was chosen for the Y20 pre-summit. Ladakh and Leh have left the youth mesmerised. All the delegates I met and interacted with here from (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

BDS aspirants feel cheated as BOPEE keeps 4 seats under State quota vacant in IGGDC Jammu

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Apr 28: The aspirants of the course of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) in Jammu and Kashmir are feeling cheated as J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE), which is the regulatory authority for conducting the counselling for the NEET MBBS/BDS admission, kept 4 BDS seats under State quota vacant in Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu.

Sources in IGGDC Jammu told Excelsior that for MBBS/BDS admissions 2022, NEET examination was conducted last year on July 17 by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the result of the exam was declared on 7th September 2022, following which J&K BOPEE in the month of October conducted counselling for the students falling in the merit, for admissions in various Government and private Dental Colleges of the Union Territory.

"Accordingly, students were allotted to Government/private dental colleges under State/Central quota," sources said, adding, while the IGGDC Jammu has 54 BDS seats under State quota and 9 under Central quota, 4 seats were left vacant in State quota and one seat in Central quota and no honest effort was made by the BOPEE to fill these seats, thereby doing discrimination with students who were allotted a private Dental College, where they are paying annual fees in lakhs as compared to few thousands in Government Dental College, Jammu.

On the condition of anonymity, a BDS student who was allotted a private Dental College in Jammu said that BOPEE has cheated him and other students like him by keeping 4 seats vacant in IGGDC Jammu under State quota despite the fact that the IGGDC authorities informed the BOPEE well in time that there is shortfall of 5 seats in their institution, 4 under State quota and one under Central quota.

He said the Union Government conducted two mop-up rounds to ensure that no

