

Parl adjourned over Manipur violence

NEW DELHI, July 20: The Manipur violence rocked proceedings in both Houses of Parliament on the first day of the Monsoon session today, with the opposition demanding a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a discussion on the situation in the Northeastern State.

Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha failed to transact any business as opposition members created uproar over the situation

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

No right for need based employees to seek regularization: HC

SRINAGAR, July 20 : The High Court has refused the plea of casual labourers of Municipal Committee seeking their regularization under Government policy vide Circular passed in the year 2017 by recording that such policy cannot be applied to statutory organizations like the Committee in which the petitioners are working.

These casuals were (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Two held with pistol, live rounds

JAMMU, July 20: Two persons were arrested with a pistol and live rounds from Domana area here today, police said. They said Rohit Kumar and Sanjay Kumar, both residents of Barnai, were arrested with the weapon and three live rounds during naka checking at Domana.

The accused have been booked under Sections 3/25 Arms Act and 109 IPC at Police Station Domana and further investigations are on, police said.

Fresh consultation on UCC needed: Govt

NEW DELHI, July 20: The Government today said the Law Commission initiated fresh consultations on the issue of Uniform Civil Code due to the "relevance and importance" of the subject and various court orders on the matter.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the 21st Law Commission had issued a consultation paper on "Reform of Family Law" on August 31, (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Arms, cash recovered

SRINAGAR, July 20: Security forces today recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition at Karnah sector of Kupwara district.

■ Pic on page 4

An official said that in a joint operation of Army and Police the recovery of arms ammunition and other warlike stores was made at Amrohi village from a Nallah on the LoC in Karnah sector during the intervening night of July 19 and (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Limit of investments likely to be enhanced

Shah reviews industrial development in J&K with LG, top officials of UT, MHA

Sanjeev Pargal *Proposals up, Pvt Ind Estates being developed

JAMMU, July 20: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today reviewed Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and top officials of Jammu and Kashmir, MHA and other stakeholders.

Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and Commissioner/Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh besides senior MHA officials including Incharge of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory attended the meeting.

Officials told the Excelsior that the meeting reportedly decided to enhance the limit of investments under Capital Investment Incentive for Health Sector.

"Lot of investments have already poured in health sector and more proposals are in the offing. The Government is of the view that investments in health

sector will help Jammu and Kashmir a lot," they said, adding this issue figured prominently in the meeting.

The meeting of Apex Committee which was primarily called by the Union Home Minister for review of new Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir discussed permitting phase-wise investment by the industrial units under NCSS, the officials said.

However, no official statement was issued on the meeting by the Union Home Ministry and the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

"The Capital Interest Subvention and Udhyaam Registration Certificate also came up for discussions and decisions were reportedly taken regarding them," as per the officials.

Another major issue for discussion was clarification regarding Freight, Demurrage

and Inclusion/Exclusion of Taxes and Duties, they said and added that registration powers for units under NCSS-2021 and Relaxation in Clause-73 also figured at the meeting.

Officials said a series of steps to further boost industrial investments in Jammu and Kashmir were discussed during the meeting and some decisions were taken.

Jammu and Kashmir has already received investment proposals worth more than Rs 70,000 crore after launch of new Industrial Development Scheme. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had performed groundbreaking ceremony of industrial investments proposals worth Rs 38,080 crore at a rally here in April last year.

Steps to bring more investments including from abroad were also discussed, the officials said.

The industrial investments

are expected to bring large scale employment opportunities for the youth in Jammu and Kashmir, they added.

Sources said the Government is anticipating private investments in Jammu and Kashmir to further go up once the pending proposals are cleared.

Some proposals for development of private Industrial Estates have also been received while many more are in the pipeline. Response to develop 'Private Land Banks' for industrial development has been very encouraging, the officials said.

The Government has fixed guidelines for development of private Industrial Estates in Jammu and Kashmir under which they will be entitled to Capital Infrastructure Subsidy depending on the investments.

"The developers of 'Private Land Banks' will be entitled to incentives as per the (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Earlier GAIL won license of Bathinda-Jammu Tawi gas project Now PNGRB initiates process to develop gas pipeline from Jammu to Srinagar

Bivek Mathur

JAMMU, July 20: After awarding the 175-kilometer Bathinda-Jammu Tawi Gas Pipeline Project to Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has initiated the process to develop a gas pipeline from Jammu to Srinagar.

To begin with, the Board has started the process of public consultation by inviting views and comments from the public, stakeholders, and entities regarding the route, indicative map, terminating point, and minimum capacity for the proposed Jammu-Srinagar gas pipeline project.

A public notice issued in this context on the PNGRB's website stated, "PNGRB aims to develop a natural gas pipeline from Jammu to Srinagar to meet the natural gas requirements in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, it has decided to initiate a suo-motu proposal for the development of a natural gas pipeline from Jammu to Srinagar under Regulation 4(2) and Regulation 6 of PNGRB NGPL Authorization Regulations."

"The Board announces the commencement of the public consultation process as per Regulation 5(1) of PNGRB NGPL Authorization Regulations," the notice further explained.

Through the notice issued on

PNGRB's website on July 3, 2023, written views and comments from individuals, stakeholders, and entities have been invited within 30 days of the publication of the notice.

In the notice, the PNGRB has clarified that the proposed pipeline would originate from the Gurdaspur-Jammu Natural Gas Pipeline, which is currently undergoing the bidding process, and would serve as its source.

As per the notice, the stakeholders and entities have been invited to provide suggestions regarding the terminating point, route, indicative map, and minimum capacity for the proposed Jammu-Srinagar Natural Gas Pipeline.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Decline registered from 12.56% to 4.80%: NITI Aayog

Over one million people of J&K escapes poverty

*Take action to improve indicators further: CEO

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 20: A significant decline has been witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir's Multidimensional Poverty on the basis of National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-2021) in comparison to National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) with over one million people escaping poverty.

As per the National Multidimensional Poverty Index released by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog recently, as per National Family Health

Survey-4, 12.56% of the total population in Jammu and Kashmir was multidimensional poor and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was 0.055.

However, as per National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), the percentage of multidimensional poor population has reduced to 4.80% and MPI is 0.020. As per the report, the number of people who exited multidimensional poverty in Jammu and Kashmir is 10,44,860.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index has been worked out on the basis of 12 indicators like Nutrition, Child and

Adolescent Mortality, Maternal Health, Years of Schooling, School Attendance, Cooking Fuel, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Housing, Electricity, Assets and Bank Account.

Over 25.88% of Jammu and Kashmir's population was deprived of nutrition in 2015-16, which has been reduced to 15.52% during 2019-21. During 2015-16, the percentage of child and adolescent mortality rate was 1.85% in Jammu and Kashmir, which has been reduced to 0.75% during 2019-21.

Over 12.73% of Jammu and (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

9 charge-sheeted for using fake degrees

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 20: The Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch Jammu (CB-Jammu) has charge-sheeted nine individuals including the Physical Education Teachers (PETs) and their agent in

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

NIA raids in North Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 20 : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today conducted raids in

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

North Kashmir in a militancy related case.

An official said that raids (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

DB upholds termination of JO

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 20: Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Mohan Lal has upheld the termination of Judicial Officer namely Mohammad Yousuf Allie, who fraudulently secured RBA

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

'Journalist' arrested for terror funding

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 20: A self-styled journalist was today arrested for allegedly receiving funds for terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

"A self-styled journalist Muzamil Zahoore Malik of Indergam Pattan" was arrested for terror funding. He received (Contd on page 4 Col 1)



A picturesque view of paddy fields in Malothi area of Doda district. — Excelsior/Rafi Choudhary

PM, CJI condemn incident; 4 arrested Nationwide outrage over 2 women paraded naked in Manipur

NEW DELHI/IMPHAL, July 20:

The grinding violence that has roiled Manipur for more than two months burst onto the national centrestage today as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CJI D Y Chandrachud expressed deep anguish over a graphic video of two disrobed women being brutalised by a mob, calling the incident "shameful" and "unacceptable".

Four people have been arrested in connection with the incident, official sources in Imphal said on Thursday night, as the 26-second video capturing the ordeal of the two tribal women a day after ethnic violence erupted in the northeastern state on May 3 stoked a nationwide outrage. But the horrific footage surfaced only on Wednesday and became viral after the internet ban was lifted.

Hours after Prime Minister Modi in his first public comments on the Manipur violence vowed that no guilty will be spared and law will act with its "full might and firmness," Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said the police have arrested two men.

CJI Chandrachud also warned that the apex court will take action if nothing is happen-

ing on the ground.

Giving details on the arrest of one of the four men, Police said he was part of the mob that was involved in the incident at B. Phainom village and was seen dragging one of the women. The man, who was identified as Huiem Heradash Singh, 32, was arrested from Thoubal district, police said. Details of the other three arrested men were not immediately available.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the video, police last night said a case of abduction, gang rape and murder was registered at Nongpok Sekmai police station against unknown armed men.

The video has become emblematic of the divide between the majority Meitei community and the Kuki tribal group, as political leaders cutting across party lines condemned the incident which also rocked Parliament on the opening day of the Monsoon session.

"Today, when I am standing by this temple of democracy my heart is full of pain and anger," Modi told reporters at Parliament complex amid criticism by opposition parties for not speaking on the ethnic violence in the BJP-ruled state.

"I want to assure the countrymen that no guilty will be spared. Law will act with its full might and firmness... What has happened to these daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven."

The incident in the state is "shameful" for any decent society and it has insulted the entire country and the 140 crore countrymen are feeling ashamed, he added.

Chief Minister Biren Singh said a thorough investigation is underway and strict action, including possible capital punishment, will follow.

"It's a crime against humanity. We will not spare anyone," he told reporters in Imphal. Tension mounted in the hills of Manipur after the May 4 video showed two women from one of the warring communities in the state being paraded naked by a mob from the other side.

The anguish over the incident found echo in the Supreme Court where a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Chandrachud took cognisance of the video and asked the Centre and the Manipur Government to take immediate action.

It also said using women as instruments for perpetrating violence (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Officials say violation of protocol Piquant situation as DDC Chairman issues show cause notice to ADDC Doda

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 20: A piquant situation has developed in district Doda where District Development Council (DDC) Chairman and BJP leader Dhananter Singh Kotwal has shot off show cause notice to Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pran Singh, who happened to be CEO of the DDC.

He has also written a letter to DC Doda Vishesh Pal Mahajan with copies to the Chief Secretary and other senior officers.

In his show cause notice to the Additional DDC Doda,

Kotwal has charged him with undermining the DDC and assuming powers and functions of the DDC in connivance with other district officers.

"The DDC has been kept in complete dark and isolation while formulating current year's CAPEX Plan as the Council has not been taken into confidence for priority of works," the DDC Chairman said in his show cause notice.

He charged the ADDC with failure to maintain Minute Book in utter disregard and violation of the Panchayati Raj Act.

"You were asked to convene meeting and submit record of proceedings of the meeting to which you even didn't respond.

Later, the record submitted by you was manipulated and had discrepancies between recorded information and actual proceedings," Kotwal said in show cause notice addressed to the ADDC.

He alleged that the record was altered to present fabricated account of decision taken and is more bunch of allegations against the Chairman and Council members than record of the meetings.

Kotwal strongly appreciated Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A but said the bureaucracy is (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Jammu-Srinagar NH restored Traffic jams trouble public on Old Samba-Kathua road

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, July 20: Long traffic jams along Old Samba-Kathua Road after the diversion of traffic from Jammu-Pathankote National Highway following damage caused to

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Tarnah bridge due to flash flood yesterday, has troubled thousands of commuters and people of the area, while smooth traffic on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was restored today.

After extensive damage caused to Tarnah bridge near

Dayalachak due to flash flood in the river on Wednesday morning, the entire traffic of Jammu-Pathankote National Highway has been diverted to Old Samba-Kathua Road. Long traffic jams have been witnessed on this entire border road stretch. Some vehicles and even ambulances remained trapped in long traffic jams for hours together today.

The police is facing tough time in managing traffic from Chadwal Morh to Sanjmorh, Chakra, Jangi Chak, Hiranagar, Londi, Rajpura sections of Old Samba-Kathua road.

An official spokesman said that there were no chances of restoration of Tarnah bridge in couple of days or few weeks

ahead, moreover, the old bridge over river Tarnah at the same place has also been almost dismantled by the National Highway authorities for constructing a new bridge, which would be part of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway. No alternative was kept by the NHAI at this place in case of any emergency.

Interestingly, hardly 12 years old bridge got damaged reportedly due to the 'negligence' of the agencies concerned but top officials at the helm of affairs or the UT administration have initiated no inquiry into the matter.

Meanwhile, an official (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Sara Ali Khan also performs darshan Over 8000 pay obeisance at holy cave, 2.93 lakh visit in 20 days

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 20: On the 20th day of yatra, over 8000 pilgrims performed darshan of naturally formed Ice Lingam of Lord Shiva in 3888 metre high cave shrine in deep Himalayas of South Kashmir's Anantnag district today.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

According to officials, celebrity Sara Ali Khan also visited the cave shrine and paid obeisance there today. They said 8574 pilgrims paid obeisance at holy cave from twin tracks of Baltal and Nunwan-Pahalgam



Sara Ali Khan near holy cave shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji on Thursday, taking total number of pilgrims who visited the holy shrine since the 62-day yatra started on July

1 to 2,93,703.

Among the pilgrims who paid obeisance at cave shrine today included 6395 male, 1903 female, 151 children, 119 Sadhus, one Sadhvi and five transgender.

Among the yatis who performed darshan of Ice Lingam today included Bollywood actress, Sara Ali Khan daughter of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh. A video on social media showing Sara Ali Khan along with some friends and escorted by the security forces visited the cave shrine of Amarnath (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

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