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Follow us: Daily Excelsior JAMMU, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023 REGD. NO. JK-71/21-23 Vol No. 59 RNI No. 28547/65 No. 62 18 Pages 6.00

Sonia Gandhi hospitalised

NEW DELHI, Mar 3: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here due to fever, doctors said today.

According to a health bulletin issued by the hospital, her condition is stable. She was admitted to the hospital on Thursday, a spokesperson of the hospital said.

2 JKAS officers get SG, 6 SS

JAMMU, Mar 3: Issuing two separate orders, Government today promoted two officers to the Selection Grade of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) and released Senior Scale (Non-Functional) to six others.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the promotion of Alyaz Ahmad Naisroo and Kishore Singh to the Selection Grade of the JKAS in the Pay Level-12 (Rs 78800-209200) with effect

Rs 6 cr cash recovered from BJP MLA's son

BENGALURU, Mar 3: Lokayukta sleuths recovered unaccounted cash of more than Rs six crore from the house of BJP MLA K Madal Virupakshappa's son Prashanth Madal close on the heels of his arrest after allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40 lakh.

Prashanth, the chief accountant of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, was caught red-handed

Minority pickets alert: IG CRPF

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force, M S Bhatia, today said that the security forces are taking stringent

measures to provide security to the minority community in Kashmir.

3 IPS officers allotted cadre from J&K

JAMMU, Mar 3: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today allocated cadres to three IPS probationers hailing from Jammu and Kashmir.

Two IPS officers Dwaraka Gandhi and Anjeet Singh have been allocated AGMUT cadre while Namnet Singh was allotted Bihar.

Katra, Banihal, Batote report rainfall deficit

JAMMU, Mar 3: The hilly towns of Kishtwar and Ramban have shown a very high level of livelihood vulnerability due to the climate change in the last over three decades, a research paper published in an international journal said.

The research paper of Dr Mohammad Sarfaraz Asgher and his team from the Department of Geography, University of Jammu, titled, "Assessing livelihood vulnerability to climate variability in the Himalayan region: a district level analysis of Jammu province, India", published in Geojournal-a journal of the renowned American publisher, Springer-has also claimed

'Some people have minted money for 5 generations' J&K Admn will work for 1.3 cr people, not just 1000-2000 'Specials': LG

Won't rest till militancy is completely finished

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 3: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today declared that the administration of Jammu and Kashmir will work for 1.30 crore people of the Union Territory and not just 1000 or 2000 specials, some of whom have swindled money for their next five generations by violating law for themselves and their family members.

Addressing Attestation-cum-Passing out Parade of recruit constables of 29th BRTC batch at S Prithinandan Singh Police Training School in Kathua,

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Sinha declared that doors of the administration are open every day for farmers, workers, soldiers, scientists, businessmen etc but some influential persons in violation of the law have minted money for their next five generations and are now instigating the people for their vested interests.

However, he added, they will not be allowed to succeed. "Gone are the days when laws were violated at their instances and everything hap-

pening in Jammu and Kashmir. militancy is completely finished in Jammu and Kashmir. Asserting that India has become third largest economy in the world, Sinha said the



LG Manoj Sinha felicitates a new recruit at PTS Kathua on Friday. — Excelsior/Pardeep

pened for them and their family members. Now, the administration is working for 1.30 crore people and not 1000 or 2000 special persons," Sinha said.

He declared that the Government won't rest till the

neighbour, a reference towards Pakistan, is frustrated with our progress and has adopted terrorism as its foreign policy. "The neighbour is trying to disturb development of Jammu and Kashmir by smuggling

drugs and making youth addicts. There is need to hit ecosystem. Let us pledge that not only terrorists but their supporters and financiers will also be hit and we won't rest till militancy is completely finished," he asserted.

Without naming Pakistan, he described the neighboring country as creator of terrorism and said police have to face security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional, which have changed during past few decades.

In another significant announcement for women, the Lieutenant Governor asked Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh to consider increasing the quota of reservation for women in the police, which presently stands at 15 percent.

He again cited figures in detail to clarify that 40 percent people in the City will be out of the purview of Property Tax while rest will have to pay very meager tax.

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Nexus with Punjab smugglers under investigation Rs 2 cr cash, US dollars, heroin, arms seized from PSA detinue's house in Poonch

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: In a major breakthrough in its drive against narco-terrorism, the Jammu and Kashmir Police today recovered seven kilograms of heroin, over Rs 2 crore cash and a pistol from the house of a notorious drug peddler along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh said a major narco-terror module has been busted in the border district of Poonch, adding the search operation is still going on and counting of cash was on in presence of



Cash recovered by police in Poonch. — Excelsior/Wasim

the Magistrate and prominent citizens.

The recovery was made from the house of notorious drug peddler Rafi Dhana alias "Rafi Lala", who was recently detained under the stringent Public Safety Act, at village Danna Doyiyian in Mandi sector of Poonch district.

Poonch Police along with components of the National Crime Agency and the CRPF raided the house of Rafi near the LoC on specific information, leading to the recovery of seven kgs of heroin, over Rs 2 crore as

cash, 15,000 US dollars and a pistol with one magazine and 10 rounds and seven rounds of SLR.

The counting of the cash is still going on, sources said, adding the counting is taking place in presence of Magistrate and prominent people of the area.

With Friday's development, police and security forces have been able to bust a major narco-terror module in the Union Territory, sources said.

"The searches are still going on in the presence of Magistrates and prominent citizens. The nexus of this module with Punjab-based narcotics smugglers is being

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

NIA attaches property of TRF militant in Baramulla

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today attached a property belonging to a Pakistan-based militant, Basit Ahmad Reshi, in Baramulla.

According to the NIA, Reshi has been designated as a "terrorist" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He has been funding militancy in the Kashmir valley.

Reshi joined the militant ranks in 2015 and was involved in the planning and execution of a militant attack at a police guard post in Sopore in which a constable was killed and others injured. He was earlier associat-



NIA team attaching the property of HM militant in Baramulla. — Excelsior/Abid Nabi

ed with Hizbul-Mujahideen, and later fled to Pakistan. As per NIA, he is currently involved in the militant activities of The Resistance Front (TRF), manages and supplies arms and ammunition, as well as funds for the outfit from across the border.

Based on its findings, the NIA has attached his agricultural land measuring 9.25 Marlas under the Act. Representatives of the UT Government and the police assisted the agency in the attach-

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

DC withholds Enggs' salaries

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 3: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, also Chairman District Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), here today ordered withholding the salary of all the Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

MeT forecasts rain, snow

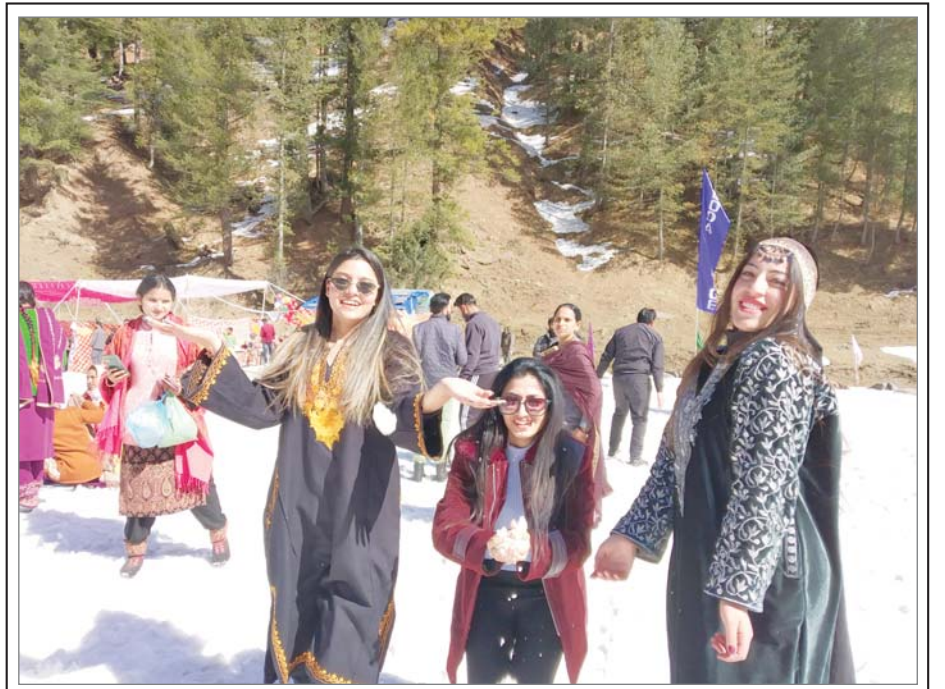
Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: The Meteorological department

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

today forecast isolated light rain and snow in next 24 hours in Kashmir with authorities issu-

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)



As mercury starts soaring in the plains, tourists enjoying at snow filled Jaie meadow of Bhabherwah on Friday. — Excelsior/Tilak Raj

Oppose unilateral actions in China seas Quad FMs announce setting up of Working Group on Counter-Terrorism

NEW DELHI, Mar 3:

The top diplomats of Quad nations on Friday denounced as "inadmissible" any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in the Ukraine war and strongly opposed any "unilateral actions" that seek to change the status quo in the South and East China Seas, a region that has witnessed increasing Chinese military offensive.

The Foreign Ministers of Quad, after an India-hosted meeting, also announced that a Quad working group on counter-terrorism would be established to explore measures to combat new and emerging forms of terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi and Australia's Penny Wong were hosted over breakfast by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar under the framework of Quad.

They also reaffirmed the grouping's commitment for a free and open Indo-Pacific and said it strongly supports the rule of law, sovereignty, territorial



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar attend a Quad Ministers' panel at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi on Friday.

integrity and peaceful settlement of disputes, in comments seen as an oblique message to China.

On the Ukraine conflict, the Quad Foreign Ministers emphasised that the rules-based international order must respect sovereignty, territorial integrity, transparency and peaceful resolution of disputes.

"We continued to discuss our responses to the conflict in Ukraine and the immense human suffering it is causing, and concurred that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible," a joint state-

ment issued by the four top diplomats said.

"We underscored the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter. We emphasised that the rules-based international order must respect sovereignty, territorial integrity, transparency and peaceful resolution of disputes," they said.

There have been apprehensions among Western powers that Russia may consider the

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Even after 3 years of initiating process, GMC Jammu awaits installation of 1st 3-Tesla MRI Machine

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Mar 3: Notwithstanding sufferings of the whole population of Jammu province, which is presently dependent on the lone MRI machine of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for diagnosis of various ailments, the authorities concerned have failed to procure and install the first ever 3-Tesla MRI Machine in the Institution even after over three years of the start of the process of the procurement of this upgraded MRI machine.

Official sources told Excelsior that the decision to procure 3-Tesla MRI Machine for GMC Jammu was taken in a

meeting of officers of Health & Medical Education Department chaired on 18-01-2019 by the then Advisor to Governor Vijay Kumar and accordingly in compliance to the directions of the Advisor, JKMSCL was asked to float tenders for procurement of the Machine. They said an amount of Rs 6.5 crore for the procurement of the Machine was then sanctioned in Capex Budget of GMC Jammu and it was assured by the Advisor that the balance amount shall be released subsequently.

"Finally, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited placed order for the procurement of 3-Tesla MRI Machine on 26-09-2019 to Philips Medical Systems Netherland through Philips India Limited after the

approval of State level purchase committee but till date neither the machine has been delivered nor installed in GMC Jammu with the reasons best known to the authorities concerned," sources said.

They said long ago, some construction work on the proposed site (Old Medical Record Section) for installation of the Machine was also done and the Letter of Credit for procurement of the MRI Machine was also opened last year but it lapsed due to slow approach adopted by the College authorities. They said now once again, the process for opening the Letter of Credit for procurement of the machine has been initiated but

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Int'l research paper says Kishtwar, Ramban show 'very high' climate-induced livelihood vulnerability

Bivek Mathur

JAMMU, Mar 3: The hilly towns of Kishtwar and Ramban have shown a very high level of livelihood vulnerability due to the climate change in the last over three decades, a research paper published in an international journal said.

The research paper of Dr Mohammad Sarfaraz Asgher and his team from the Department of Geography, University of Jammu, titled, "Assessing livelihood vulnerability to climate variability in the Himalayan region: a district level analysis of Jammu province, India", published in Geojournal-a journal of the renowned American publisher, Springer-has also claimed

that the average maximum temperature in Katra, Bhabherwah, and Jammu has also fallen over the years while as the average maximum temperature in Batote and Banihal has increased in the last three decades.

The research paper has also highlighted the concern of rainfall deficit in weather stations Katra in Reasi district, and Banihal and Batote in Ramban district due to the climate variations.

Asked what the possible reasons for the change in climate in Jammu and Kashmir are, Dr Mohammad Sarfaraz Asgher told the Excelsior: "there are several reasons for the changes we're seeing in the climate today. They are natural as well as anthropogenic. Among the natu-

ral are shifting of the tectonic plates within the Earth's crust causing earthquakes and the rise in the temperature, and among the anthropogenic are many including, unplanned burning, construction activities, release of harmful gases into the atmosphere, deforestation etc.," he said.

Dr Asgher and his team's study, which assessed the change in the weather patterns using secondary data on annual rainfall and change in temperature from IMD's Srinagar unit, was aimed at evaluating the livelihood vulnerability to the changing climate in the Jammu Province.

To do so, Dr Asgher's research

Based on its findings, the NIA has attached his agricultural land measuring 9.25 Marlas under the Act. Representatives of the UT Government and the police assisted the agency in the attach-

Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Mohan Lal passed these directions in an application filed by the Director, Mission Vatsalya, Department of Social Welfare J&K, for permitting the department to finalize the selection list, appointment of candidates for the post of Member of Juvenile Justice Board(s) and Chairperson and members of Child Welfare Committees.

"In the meanwhile, the

HC directs for selection, appointment of Chairperson, members for JJBs, CWCs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: The High Court today directed the authorities to go ahead with the selection and appointment of candidates for the post of Chairperson and members of JJBs and CWCs and produce the result before the court in sealed cover.

The department has suggested five recommendations for the protection of children from abuse and exploitation in the J&K.

The selection process for these posts was stayed by the coordinate benches of Jammu

Director, Mission Vatsalya, Department of Social Welfare, J&K, shall produce the result in a sealed cover before this court on the next date of hearing," the DB directed.

One more application was filed for placing on record recommendations regarding the protection of the children from abuse and exploitation in the J&K.

"Issue notice to the Director, concerned who shall respond with regard to the recommendations suggested by the applicant. List on 09.03.2023," DB said.

The selection process for these posts was stayed by the coordinate benches of Jammu

and Srinagar wings of the High Court on the pleas of the present members but the Division Bench on previous hearing clarified that pendency of any writ petitions or orders passed therein by the coordinate benches stalling the process of selection shall not come in the way of selecting authority for initiating selection process.

The coordinate benches had put on hold the process of selection for the fresh appointment of members of JJBs and CWCs in two writ proceedings filed by the present members of JJB and CWC from various districts of Kashmir and Jammu Divisions.

These sitting members had thrown challenge to the fresh advertisement notices issued on 01.08.2022 where-under the

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