

Investiture ceremony for State Awards postponed

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 2: The Government has postponed the Investiture Ceremony for presentation of State Awards, which was scheduled to be held at Jammu on April 4.

A decision in this regard is learnt to have been taken in view of prevailing situation in Kashmir valley following the killings of 13 militants and four civilians besides martyrdom of four soldiers in fierce encounters and subsequent clashes yesterday.

"It is for all the concerned that the Investiture Ceremony for the State Awards for the year 2015, 2016 & 2017 and Chief Minister's Gold Medal for Honesty, Integrity and

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Pandith gets charge of DG A&T, Gupta DG JKFO

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 2: The Government has assigned the additional charge of the post of Director General Accounts & Treasuries to Mohammad Yousof Pandith, Director Finance Agriculture Production Department.

According to an order issued by the Principal Secretary Finance, Navin Kumar Choudhary, the additional charge of the post of Director General J&K Funds Organization has been assigned to K K Gupta, Director, Audit & Inspections in the Finance Department.

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Postponed exam on Apr 12

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 2: The postponed examination of General English subject of ongoing Higher Secondary Exam Part II (Class 12th) Bi-annual Session 2018, Private (Winter Zone) Jammu Division, shall be conducted on April 12.

The said exam was earlier scheduled to be held on March 24 but had been postponed due to some technical reasons.

According to a notification, issued today by the J&K Board of School Education, the examination of General English subject shall now be conducted on April 12 while time and venue shall remain same.

No selection benefits to appointees in KVIB: HC

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Apr 2: High Court today directed that the recent appointees in Khadi Village Industries Board (KVIB) shall not be given benefit for selection and appointment till next date of hearing.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey directed that appointees including Aroot Madani, cousin of Chief Minister, shall not be given benefit arising out of the selection/appointment till next date before the Bench.

Court, meantime, sought reply to the petition from the officials of (KVIB) Board by or before next date. Court asked the State Counsel B A Dar, (Sr. AAG) to apprise the Principal

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'Shed differences, come together to end violence'

Mehbooba calls for new ways to find sustainable solutions

Guv, CM review security at high-level

Sanjeev Pargal/ Fayaz Bukhari

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Apr 2: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today called for shedding differences and coming together to think about new ways to reach out to the youth and find sustainable solutions to end dreadful cycle of violence even as she reviewed security situation in Kashmir at a high-level meet today and has called yet another meeting tomorrow afternoon in the wake of deadly violence yesterday in which 20 persons including 13 militants, three Army jawans and four civilians were killed in two encounters at South Kashmir.

Mehbooba, who cancelled her all engagements in Jammu

Death penalty for 10 terrorists in Pak

ISLAMABAD, Apr 2:

Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa today approved death penalty for 10 "hardcore terrorists" including those who shot dead Amjad Sabri, one of the country's renowned Sufi Qaawals.

In a statement, the military's media wing said the hardcore terrorists, tried by special military courts, were involved in killing of 62 people and heinous crimes against the state including attack on security forces and Pearl Continental Hotel in Peshawar.

The terrorists were identified as Muhammad Ishaq, Muhammad Rafique, Muhammad Arish, Habibur Rehman, Muhammad Fayaz, Ismail Shah, Muhammad Fazal, Hazrat Ali, Muhammad Asim and Habibullah.

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NGT raps J&K Govt over rehab plan of mules at Vaishno Devi

NEW DELHI, Apr 2:

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slammed the Jammu and Kashmir government for not finalising a rehabilitation plan for horses and mules which have been barred from plying from Katra to the Vaishno Devi temple, and slapped a cost of Rs 50 lakh on the State Government.

A bench headed by Justice Jawad Rahim refused to grant four-week time sought by the State Government to place the plan before the State Cabinet for its approval.

The green panel said there was no explanation why the rehabilitation scheme had not been placed before the Cabinet since February 20 when the tribunal first asked the State to

and straightway flew to Srinagar from New Delhi this afternoon, tonight tweeted: "the violence from yesterday is a grim reminder of the fact that at times like these we must shed our differences & come together to think of new ways to reach out to the youth & find sustainable solutions to end the dreadful cycle of violence that is consuming them endlessly".

Her call for shedding differences comes in the wake of series of tweets by National Conference working president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah questioning Mehbooba's absence from Kashmir at this crucial juncture and concern over increased number of local militants.

"Every day it breaks my heart to see a wailing mother beckoning her son to return. So can we leave aside our accusations & counter accusations, put our heads together to save these young ones," Mehbooba said through another tweet.

Meanwhile, Governor NN Vohra reached Srinagar this

morning from here and separately met three top officers of Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police to discuss prevailing security situation with them.

He separately met General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps Lt Gen AK Bhat, Director General of Police (DGP) Dr Shesh Pal Vaid and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Swayam Prakash Pani and was briefed by all three about yesterday's anti-militancy operations in South Kashmir in which security forces eliminated 13 militants but, at the same time, three Army soldiers and four civilians were killed while around 100 others were injured as people protested at the site of encounters.

Of 13 slain militants, 12 were locals from Kashmir.

The Governor also met heads of Central Intelligence Agencies and took feedback from them on the presence of militants and steps required to keep Kashmir peaceful during summer, which has already set-in.

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Dalit bandh: violence leaves 9 killed

NEW DELHI/ GWALIOR/ ALWAR, Apr 2:

At least nine persons were killed and hundreds injured today in violence across several states as protesters blocked trains, clashed with police and set fire to private and public properties, including police posts, during a nationwide bandh called by Dalit groups,

*** Pic on page 6. Video on www.excelsiornews.com**

officials said.

Thousands were detained following widespread incidents of arson, firing and vandalism across over 10 States, several of them being BJP-ruled including Madhya Pradesh where at least six persons died during the protests against the alleged dilution of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Two persons died in Uttar Pradesh and one in Rajasthan, according to officials there. Other states hit with violence included Punjab, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi. Those arrested included

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330 MW Kishanganga power project fully commissioned

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 2: The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) said today that 330 MW Kishanganga hydropower project in Gurez area of Bandipora district over river Kishanganga in the Kashmir valley has been fully completed. The project is scheduled to be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir in May.

The project was fully commissioned with synchronising of third unit of 110 MW on March 30, 2018, official sources said.

"The third unit (110MW) of the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project (3 x 110MW) of NHPC at Bandipora, Jammu & Kashmir has been successfully

synchronised with the Grid and has also achieved its rated full load successfully at 2358 hours on March 30, 2018," an NHPC statement said.

It further said this marks the commissioning of all three units of Kishanganga project, as the first and second units have already been commissioned on March 13 and 21, 2018, respectively.

The Kishanganga project envisages diversion of water of Kishanganga river to underground power house through 23.25 KM long head race tunnel to generate 1,713 million units per annum. The project is covered under the Indus Waters Treaty signed between India and Pakistan.

Apart from the many States which would be the project's energy beneficiaries, 12 per

cent power generated from the project shall be provided to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

The NHPC said that the cooperation of the local community near project vicinity, district and State administration and other stake holders was instrumental in completing the project.

The work on Kishanganga project, which comprised of three units of 110 MW each, was started in January, 2009.

The sanctioned cost of project was Rs 3,642.04 crore and revised cost has touched Rs 5,783.17 crore.

Sources said though the project was fully commissioned, the formal inauguration of the project could be done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Hurriyat leader detained under PSA

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Apr 2: Hurriyat Conference leader, Devinder Singh Behl who made provocative remarks during public meeting at Nowshera on Sunday was today arrested and detained under Public Safety Act in District Jail.

Official sources told the Excelsior that District authorities in Rajouri detained Behl under Public Safety Act (PSA) for his attempts to instigate people in Nowshera and also issuing provocative statements aimed at challenging the territorial integrity of the country which can deteriorate public order and overall law and order situation in the district.

Order for detention of Behl was issued today by District Magistrate Rajouri Dr Shahid

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)



Tourists enjoying horse riding at Sanasar.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Objective of initiative taken 12 yrs back yet to be achieved

Created for monitoring developmental works, posts of ADDCs lying vacant in several distts

GAD ignoring own orders while making transfers

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 2: Defeating objective of the initiative taken 12 years back, the PDP-BJP Coalition Government has failed to fill up vacant posts of Additional District Development Commissioners (ADDCs) in majority of the districts of the State, which otherwise were created exclusively for closely monitoring and physical verification of developmental works.

The non-serious approach is notwithstanding the fact that large number of developmental works in almost all the sectors are facing inordinate delays for want of regular monitoring as was highlighted exclusively by EXCELSIOR through series of news-items last month.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that necessity to put in place exclusive mechanism for monitoring of developmental works was felt by the then Chief Minister Gulam Nabi Azad in the year 2006 and accordingly the State Cabinet vide its decision No.106/4 dated

May 11, 2006 gave nod to the creation of the posts of Additional District Development Commissioners (ADDCs).

The General Administration Department vide its Order No.726 dated June 8, 2006 formally accorded sanction to the creation of the posts of ADDCs in 12 districts of the State. Following creation of eight more districts, this order was modified and equal number of posts of ADDCs were created.

In the main order, the General Administration Department dwelt on the role to be played by the ADDCs and it was specifically mentioned that officers on these posts would exclusively carry out monitoring and physical verification of all the developmental schemes including Centrally Sponsored and Special Projects being implemented by different departments in their respective districts with special focus on the developmental schemes carried out by Public Works Department, Public Health

Engineering, Irrigation and Flood Control, Urban Environmental Engineering, Power Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare and Health and Education Departments.

Moreover, it was clearly stated that ADDCs would conduct intensive touring with the officers of these departments under intimation/approval of District Development Commissioner for at least 15 days in a month to inspect, review and monitor the progress of implementation of the developmental works in the district.

However, the present dispensation has failed to utilize this mechanism for effective monitoring of developmental works, which otherwise is imperative for their timely completion.

This can be gauged from the fact that posts of Additional District Development Commissioners have been lying vacant in half of the districts in both the regions of the State.

At present, the posts of

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Shutdown, restrictions paralyse life in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 2: Normal life was disrupted today due to shutdown called by separatists against yesterday's killings in South Kashmir and curfew like restrictions imposed in parts of Kashmir to prevent any flare up in violence.

Authorities today imposed restrictions in the sensitive parts of Kashmir. The call for the shutdown was given by separatist Hurriyat Conference in protest against the killings in three separate gun battles in Shopian and Anantnag districts yesterday.

Twenty people including 13 militants, 3 Army soldiers and 4

2 dozen injured in clashes



A para-military jawan stands guard on a Srinagar road on Monday.

-Excelsior/Shakeel

civilians were killed in three separate gun battles in South Kashmir yesterday while over 100 civilians were injured in

clashes with security forces. And amid tight security clashes broke out at several

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Fraud worth Rs 80 lakhs in Banihal Govt Treasury, probe ordered

Surrendered militant 'mastermind' behind act

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Apr 2: A fraud worth over Rs 80 lakhs has been detected in Govt Treasury Banihal in district Ramban of Jammu division involving a surrendered militant and few contractors with the active connivance of 'some insiders' in the Department.

While the higher authorities in the Department of Accounts & Treasuries maintained criminal silence over the issue and avoided to lodge an FIR, they later ordered an internal inquiry into the matter just for face saving. A District Treasury Officer

has been asked to hold probe into the matter and submit report to the Director, Accounts and Treasuries Jammu.

Official sources told the Excelsior that not only in Banihal Treasury, the issue of double payments to some contractors was also hushed up at Sadder Treasury Jammu on last day of this financial year, with no action taken against the officials responsible for the lapse. By opening adjoining J&K Bank branch at Town Hall during mid night, the selective staff made corrections and withdraw the excessive money.

Sources revealed that in Govt Treasury Banihal, the

fraud worth over Rs 80-85 crore was the brain child of a surrendered militant, now employed in the same department. This is the second fraud committed by the same person. On earlier occasion also, he allegedly had committed the fraud but later, he deposited the amount in the account and the senior officers shielded him and the case was hushed up.

Now again, with a well conceived strategy, the same person was the kingpin of the fraud and with the connivance of a few favourite contractors of the area,

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Teach regional languages in all schools from current session: DB

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 2: Division Bench of State High Court comprising Acting Chief Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and Justice Sanjeev Kumar has directed the J&K Board of School Education to teach regional languages in all the Government and private schools without any discrimination from the current academic session.

The direction was passed in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by social activist and politician Vikram Malhotra.

"In response to various orders passed by this court an affidavit has been filed by the Under Secretary to the Government, School Education

Department dated 27.03.2018 mentioning that in compliance to Government Order No. 222-Edu of 2006 dated 10.04.2006, the Secretary, J&K State Board of School Education by communication No. Edu/ Legal/J/ Misc 498/ 2015 dated 13.03.2018 was informed to furnish the required information and in response to the same, by communication No. F-1 (Acad-C) Languages/B/18 dated 13-3-2018 of the State Board of School Education, it has been informed that from class 1st to 5th, Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Gojri, Bodhi and Pahari languages are to be taught as one of the compulsory subjects", the DB observed.

"It has further been stated that insofar as students from 6th

to 8th are concerned, the subjects Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi and Bodhi are to be taught as one of the compulsory subjects in such areas where such languages are spoken as mother tongue in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh provinces", the DB further observed.

"In the light of this communication of J&K State Board of School Education, we direct the Board to strictly implement Government Order No. 222-Edu of 2006 dated 10.04.2006 in the three provinces, namely, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, without any discrimination in all schools, as prescribed and in line with the communication of the Secretary J&K State

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WEATHER

JAMMU:
Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.5 Degree C
Min: 19.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 54.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 48.0 per cent
Sunset on Tuesday: 06.53 p.m.
Sunrise on Wednesday: 06.17 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 28.0 Degree C
Min: 9.9 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 48.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 25.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 20.9 Degree C
Min: 1.4 Degree C