

14 officers shifted

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 24: The Cabinet today ordered transfer and postings of 14 officers
Hilal Ahmad Parry, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Technical Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Officer on Special Duty in the General Administration Department.
Mohammad Javed Khan, awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, was posted as Secretary to the Government, Technical Education, Youth Services and Sports Department.

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Guv promulgates CCP Ordinance

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 24: Governor N N Vohra has promulgated the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance.
The provisions of the existing Code of Criminal Procedure inter-alia provide that all proceedings in a criminal trial are required to be taken in presence of the accused which would result in prolonged trial due to non-production of accused for one or other reason.

The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act), which is applicable to the whole of India except the State of

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Grade promotion for KAS officers

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 24: State Cabinet today approved grant of time-bound grade promotion for the KAS officers and promotion of officers of Accounts (Gazetted) Service.
As per the decision, a Junior KAS/feeding service officer in the pay band of Rs 9300-34800 with grade pay of Rs 4800 will be eligible for placement in scale of 15600-39100 + GP 6600. (Deputy Secretary level-non-functional scale after 10 years of service)

A Time Scale KAS officer with 4 years' service in the Time Scale will be eligible for placement in the Selection

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HC revises office timing

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 24: As per a notification issued by Registrar General, all the concerned have been informed that the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and its Subordinate Courts, shall function for the summer session 2018 with effect from May 1, as per a fixed time schedule.

The office timings for High Court Wing, Srinagar will be from 10 a.m to 5 p.m and High Court Wing, Jammu will be from 8 a.m to 2 p.m.

Similarly, the Court timing of High Court Wing, Srinagar will be from 10.30 a.m to 1 p.m and from 2 p.m to 4.30 p.m. Besides, court hours of High

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Sharma, Saleem promoted

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 24: The Government today accorded sanction to the promotion of two HoDs to the Common Pool of posts for Heads of the Departments.

They included Vinod Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project and Dr Saleem-Ur-Rehman, Director Health Services, Kashmir.

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 36.9 Degree C
Min: 18.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 43.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 19.0 per cent
Sunset on Wednesday: 07:08 p.m.
Sunrise on Thursday: 05:51 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 26.0 Degree C
Min: 7.1 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 53.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 24.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 17.3 Degree C
Min: 6.5 Degree C

Cop missing in Budgam along with AK-47

JeM comdr among 4 militants, soldier, cop killed in Tral

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Apr 24: Four militants including top commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad and two security force personnel were killed in an encounter at Tral forest area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district today.

Security forces intercepted a militant group at Goytengo

forests in Tral who earlier fled after a brief exchange of gunfire. Two Army personnel and one SOG cop identified as Latif Gojri were injured. The critically injured Latif later succumbed. An injured soldier Ajay Kumar of 42 RR succumbed to injuries at 92 Base Hospital here in Srinagar. He was injured during the initial firing by militants on Army and was removed to the Base hospital in a chopper.

Four militants were killed in the operation at Goytengo forests in Laam area. All the bodies of the militants were recovered along with four AK-rifles. One of the militant has been identified as top JeM commander, Umar Khalid while two



Security forces rush towards encounter site at Tral on Tuesday.

others are local and have been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad and Abid of Lashkar-e-Toiba. The fourth militant who is a foreigner is yet to be identified.

Sources said that two among the slain militants are foreigners and belonged to the Jaish-e-Mohammad militant outfit. The searches of the forest area were going on till late in the evening.

The wreath laying ceremony of the policeman Latif Gojri was held at DPL Awantipora where among others IGP Kashmir Swayam Prakash Pani, DIG SKR Amit Kumar and other security force officials were

heavily upon the search party. Security forces in their guarded response fired back leading to an encounter with the militants. During the encounter, three militants of outlawed JeM were neutralized. Their identity is being ascertained. Moreover, one police personnel identified as Mohammad Latif son of Ghulam Hassan resident of Tral and one Army Jawan identified as Ajay Kumar attained martyrdom in the encounter", the spokesman said.

"During the encounter, incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot. The search in the area is going on", the spokesman added.

In the meantime, a policeman has gone missing along with a service rifle from police post-Pakherpora in Central Kashmir's Budgam district this evening.

Jammu and Kashmir police constable who was posted as a constable in Police Post Pakherpora has been missing along with AK-47 rifle.

A police officer said that constable Tariq Bhat (belt number 1151) son of Mohammad

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Notification for Thiksay by-poll

Excelsior Correspondent
LEH, Apr 24: Government has issued notification for conducting by-election to elect new Councilor for 14 Thiksay constituency of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh.

As per the notification, nominations for the elections can be made from May 5 to May 15 and scrutiny of the nominations will be done on May 16 while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is May 18.

The elections will be held on June 4, if necessary and the counting will be held on June 7. The election shall be completed before June 10.

Pertinent to mention here that the Councilor seat of Thiksay Constituency has been lying vacant since January 29 this year in the wake of demise of Dr Sonam Dawa Lonpo (Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor), who was representing this Constituency as the Councilor.

7th Pay Commission recommendations receive nod

Cabinet approves Ordinances providing stringent punishment for sexual violence

Slew of administrative reforms announced

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 24: State Cabinet, which met here today under the chairpersonship of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, approved the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance and Protection of Children from Sexual Violence Ordinance. Moreover, the Cabinet gave nod to the implementation of 7th Pay Commission recommendations for State Government employees and pensioners with effect from January 2016.

As per the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, com-

mitting rape on women under 16 years of age has been made punishable with rigorous imprisonment for 20 years and may extend to life sentence, which shall mean remainder of that person's natural life while as

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

committing rape on women under 12 years of age has been made punishable with death sentence.

Gang-rape of women under 16 years of age has been made punishable with imprisonment for life, which shall mean remainder of that person's natural life while as gang-rape of

women under 12 years of age has been made punishable with death sentence.

According to the Ordinance, investigation in such cases is to be completed within a period of two months whereas trial is to be completed within six months and reasons for any delay be communicated to the High Court.

Stringent provisions for bail have been incorporated in the Ordinance. It has been provided that no bail shall be granted without hearing Public Prosecutor.

The Jammu and Kashmir

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HC raps State for casual approach in rape cases

'Govt counsel fails to file objections'

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 24: On a day when State Cabinet approved death for the rapists of women under-12, High Court rapped the State for its casual approach towards rape cases despite battery of lawyers being engaged for the same.

Justice MK Hanjura while hearing bail application of an alleged rapist, observed that the lackadaisical, inattentive, incurious and indolent attitude of the

Court rejects bail of minor in Rassana case

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 24: CJM Kathua Amarjeet Singh Langeh today rejected the bail application of minor allegedly involved in the much publicized Kathua rape and murder case.

After hearing CPO Vikrant Sharma with Senior Prosecuting Officer Manmohit Sharma for the State whereas Advocate Bharat Bushan Bargaotra for the accused, CJM Kathua observed, "courts must be sensitive in dealing with a juvenile who is involved in heinous cases like rape, gang rape, murder etc", adding "the criminal act attributed to petitioner by all conceivable standards seems to be prima facie a

State in rape case of a minor girl sends shivers down the spine of a man projects a tale of woes.

"A battery of lawyers has been engaged by the State to conduct and handle the matters, in which the State is a party, but one gets dismayed to see that even in cases involving horrifying and serious crimes the approach of the State is abject, dismal and desolate", Justice Hanjura said.

HC said that the State has failed to file the objections in answer to the instant bail application, although a number of opportunities have been provided to the Counsel representing the State.

Justice Hanjura observed that rape is a barbaric act and the Government is not taking these matters seriously. He directed

the copy of rejection of bail in rape be forwarded to Chief Secretary of the State to take stock of

Government's casualness in such matters.

HC, while dismissing the bail application of an accused rapist said, the Section 376 RPC is non-compoundable and falls within the category of cases where the law does not permit it to be settled on the wishes of the parties.

Court said, it is a wrong done against the State and the society. Therefore, this argument is also a specious one. "A copy of this order shall be sent to the Chief Secretary of the State so that he can take a stock of how casual the State deals with the matters that are

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Woman heads all-male VDC in Reasi!

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 24: Though women are second to none, a woman in mountainous areas of Mahore in Reasi district has been heading an all male Village Defence Committee (VDC), leading fight against the militants from the front.

Though Reasi is virtually militancy-free district now, the VDCs remained on the job as its mountainous areas fall in Pir Panjal range and the militants can shift to the hills when pressure grows on them in South Kashmir.

Kanta Devi, about 35, has been heading an all male VDC at village Choura Kot in Bhamag area of Reasi district, which once had presence of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen militants but



Kanta Devi, who heads all-male VDC in Reasi district.

subsequently, they were eliminated during the operations and later entire Reasi district was declared as militancy free zone.

Kanta Devi has always been in forefront in leading the VDC of village Choura Kot which has seven other male members. She is fully trained in handling the

46 Principals shuffled

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 24: The Department of School Education has ordered transfers and postings of 46 Principals and equivalent with immediate effect.

Ajit Singh Kotwal has been transferred from HSS Goha, Marmut, Doda to HSS Saringal, Doda while Dr Vinay Kumar Hangloo, under orders of transfer as Principal HSS Saringal Doda from Camp HSS Satwari Jammu, has been posted at HSS Goha, Doda vice Ajit Kotwal.

Irshad Ahmad Shah, under orders of Transfer as Principal HSS Dawar, Gurez, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted at HSS Hardushora, Baramulla while Abdul Rahid Bhat, under



Jammu flyover crying for attention of R&B Department.

Madhav, other top BJP leaders discuss 3 options Reshuffle imminent but will take time as Shah stays busy

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Apr 24: Reshuffle among the BJP Ministers, though imminent, could take some time as BJP State unit leaders today discussed modalities with BJP's national general secretary and party's pointman on Jammu and Kashmir, Ram Madhav but failed to get an appointment from president, Ram Madhav due to his preoccupation in Karnataka Assembly elections.

"The reshuffle will not take place before April 27 i.e. the last day of Civil Secretariat, the seat of the Government, in Jammu. It was now likely to take place after re-opening of the Secretariat in Srinagar, the summer capital of the State, on May 7," BJP sources told the Excelsior.

They said Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh, State BJP president Sat Sharma and organizing secretary Ashok Koul had an hour long meeting with Ram Madhav in New Delhi and discussed various options on inclusion and exclusion of BJP Ministers in the Council of Ministry.

Prior to the meeting with Ram Madhav, the BJP leaders had met another BJP general

secretary, Ram Lal and discussed with him the latest political situation in Jammu and Kashmir including reshuffle of the BJP Ministers.

However, according to sources, the BJP leaders' meeting with party national president Amit Shah didn't mature as Shah, though back in New Delhi from Karnataka, couldn't spare time for meeting the State leaders due to his preoccupation with Karnataka Assembly polls.

"Amit Shah's office conveyed to the BJP leaders to seek meeting with him after two-three days," sources said, adding the BJP leaders would again visit New Delhi when an appointment is given to them by Shah for discussions on the reshuffle.

Sources said three major issues were discussed in the meeting the BJP leaders had with Ram Madhav.

One of the view point was that there should be complete overhaul of the BJP Ministers while another view emerged that the party should only fill the two vacancies, which had arisen after the resignations of Forest Minister Lal Singh and Industry and Commerce Minister Chander Prakash Ganga in view of their support to the demand of CBI probe into Rassana rape-

cum-murder of minor Bakerwal girl.

There was a view that if newly inducted faces had to be given Minister of State rank, two sitting MoS could be elevated to Cabinet rank. The third option that was discussed included dropping of two-three Ministers and including four to five new faces in the Council of Ministry as there were already two vacancies.

Sources said a final decision on the available options would be taken only when Amit Shah meets Ram Madhav, Union Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh and State unit leaders including Dr Nirmal Singh, Sat Sharma and Ashok Koul after few days, which will be followed by the reshuffle. However, the new entrants in the Council of Ministry will have to wait till the re-opening of Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

Sources said in their meeting with Amit Shah, whenever it matured, the BJP leaders would project all options before him. Shah will take a final call on the available options and only then, the names would be decided for inclusion or exclusion from the Ministry.

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Sufficient drug de-addiction centres to be set-up in J&K

Finally, Govt wakes up from deep slumber, begins exercise to frame rules under NDPSA

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 24: Finally, the Government has woken up from the deep slumber and set into motion an exercise to frame much-needed rules under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 which will facilitate establishment of sufficient number of drugs de-addiction centres across the State. However, plugging routes being used to bring drugs into the State has yet not been paid any serious attention.

Two days back EXCELSIOR had exclusively reported that there was no end to the dilly-dallying approach on the part of the

Two vital aspects yet to receive focus of Home Deptt

Government in framing rules for effective implementation of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPSA) in Jammu and Kashmir despite numerous directions from the State Accountability Commission (SAC) during the past several months.

Today, Government issued an order No.681-GAD according sanction to the constitution of a committee for formulation of the draft rules under Sections 71 and 78 of the Narcotic Drugs

and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 for establishment of drugs de-addiction centres in the State.

The committee headed by Administrative Secretary, Finance Department will have representatives of the Home, Health and Social Welfare Departments not below the rank of Special Secretary, under the order issued by Khurshid Ahmad, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, General Administration Department.

However, the exercise to be conducted by the committee has not been made time-bound as the Government order is com-

pletely silent about the period within which the committee is required to formulate the draft rules and submit the same to the Government for placement before the Cabinet for approval.

"Notwithstanding this, the development is positive as State Accountability Commission where the proceedings are going on during the past several months on this vital aspect will continue to seek status of the task entrusted to the committee headed by Finance Secretary", official sources told EXCELSIOR.

It is pertinent to mention here that Accountability Commission, while taking suo-moto cognizance of numerous reports of EXCELSIOR regarding uncontrolled menace of drugs across the State, had felt

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