

Army Colonel, 24 in GGM, 22 IIM, 6 in University infected

Night curfew in 8 J&K distts from today; GMC-J, Health Deptt stop leave of employees

Permission to exhibitions, fairs in Jammu withdrawn

555 test +ve in Valley, all incomers to be tested at Lower Munda

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Apr 8: With no let up in renewed surge in Coronavirus cases, the Jammu and Kashmir Government today ordered imposition of night curfew in eight districts of the Union Territory from tomorrow while the Health Department and GMC Jammu authorities suspended leave of all employees and the district administration Jammu terminated permissions granted for holding exhibitions and fairs and converted area in and around GGM Science College and Sanskrit University into micro-containment zones.

Fresh surge in COVID-19 cases continued with 835 persons testing positive including 555 in Kashmir and 280 in Jammu while the Valley reported one fatality. An Army Colonel and 24 persons including students putting up in hostel, Chowkidars and others

tested positive during Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) at GGM Science College while 22 students and faculty members were found infected at IIM Jammu where Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is scheduled to visit tomorrow. Six students and staff members at Sanskrit University Bhalwal have also tested positive. The Union Territory Government tonight announced imposition of night curfew in eight districts through two tweets by the Office of Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha.

Curfew will, however, be confined to Municipal limits of the Urban Local Bodies of eight districts including Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, Anantnag and Kupwara. District Reasi will, however, remain under close observation for any possible spike in cases.

"Directed the divisional administration to impose Corona

curfew from 10 pm to 6 am in urban areas of 8 districts affected by the recent COVID spike. Curfew will be in force in the Municipal limits of Urban Local Bodies of the districts," the tweets by Office of LG J&K said.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Raghav Langar said the night curfew restrictions will come into effect from April 9. He said the Deputy Commissioners have been directed to issue separate orders in this regard.

However, he added, the Railway passengers carrying train tickets will be exempted from curfew restrictions.

Another order issued tonight by the State Executive Committee (SEC) Member-Secretary Simrandeep Singh said all District Magistrates will issue orders (for imposition of night Corona curfew) under Section 144 of CrPC.

The SEC order said the night

curfew restrictions were based on detailed review of current COVID situation in Jammu and Kashmir conducted with the Financial Commissioner Health, Administrative Secretary School Education, Divisional Commissioners of Jammu/Kashmir and other officers.

Meanwhile, Director Health Services Jammu Dr Renu Sharma today ordered that no leave will be sanctioned in favour of officers/officials in Jammu division except maternity leave till further orders.

GMC Jammu Principal Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma has ordered cancellation of all kind of leaves (sanctioned/under consideration) of Gazetted as well as non-Gazetted employees of the Government Medical College Jammu and Associated Hospitals with immediate effect except medical/maternity leave.

The medical leave will only be considered after recommenda-

tion of the Standing Medical Board, the GMC Principal's order read.

The district administration Jammu today cancelled all permissions issued for holding exhibitions and fairs immediately.

"The organizers of these exhibitions will wind up their operations within 24 hours," an order issued by District Magistrate Jammu Anshul Garg said and directed the Sub Divisional Magistrates to ensure compliance of the order.

Through another order, the DM Jammu declared areas in and around GGM Science College, Canal Road and Sanskrit University at Kanger Morh Bhalwal falling under the jurisdictions of Nowabad and Gharota police stations respectively as micro-containment zones.

The decision was taken after COVID positive cases were reported from GGM Science College and Sanskrit

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Step taken in view of order, principles laid down by CAT

Govt notifies seniority list of KAS officers appointed between 2004 & 2008

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 8: Keeping in view the recent judgment of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and principles laid down by it, the Government has notified a seniority list of the members of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service appointed between January 1, 2004 and December 1, 2008 as it stood on January 1, 2010.

The Tribunal vide its order dated March 30, 2021 dismissed the pleas challenging the final seniority dated June 24, 2011, set aside the orders constituting the committees to review and revise the final seniority list dated June 24, 2011 and held Rule 15(4) of 2008 Rules and Clause (1) of the proviso as illegal and contrary to law.

Moreover, the Tribunal has observed that the seniority list dated June 24, 2011 fully accords with the KAS Rules as well as general principles of reckoning the seniority.

Now, the GAD in consultation with Department of Law has found that the seniority list of 2011 fully accords with the

KAS Rules as well as the general principles of reckoning the seniority except to the extent of modifying the seniority for placing appointees/promotees against leave and training vacancies below those, who are

have been inducted into the Time Scale of KAS during the year 2008 against the vacancies which didn't exist as on January 1, 2008 and hence to be treated on par with the officers appointed/promoted against leave and training reserve vacancies.

These officers will have to be placed below those officers promoted/appointed to the Time Scale of KAS during the year 2008 against the vacancies allocable as on January 1, 2008. Moreover, dates of appointment to the KAS in respect of some officers figuring in the seniority list issued on January 24, 2011 have been reviewed and their seniority re-fixed on account of which their names would not figure in the instant seniority list, the GAD said.

"The cases of some officers with dates of induction into KAS after December 1, 2008 have been reviewed sequel whereof their appointment has been made with effect from September 25, 2008 and their inter-seniority fixed accordingly. Consequently they would form part of the instant seniority due to re-fixation of

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

promoted/appointed against regular vacancies as per the principles laid down by the CAT in its order ibid.

It has also been found by the GAD that some more officers

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

KAS officers call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: A group of 1999 batch officers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service commonly known as KAS today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and expressed gratitude for speedy implementation of judgment of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) regarding the seniority dispute and putting an end to the long pending issue.

Now, the GAD in consultation with Department of Law has found that the seniority list of 2011 fully accords with the

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Court takes note of Centre's serious charges

Rohingyas detained in Jammu not to be deported without due process: SC

NEW DELHI, Apr 8:

The Supreme Court today made it clear that Rohingyas, who have been detained in Jammu, shall not be deported to Myanmar unless the procedure prescribed for such deportation is followed by the authorities.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said it is true that rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution are available to all the persons who may or may not be citizens but the right not to be deported, is "ancillary or concomitant" to the right to reside or settle in any part of India.

While Article 14 deals with equality before law, Article 21 deals with protection of life and personal liberty.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, passed the order on an application seeking release of detained Rohingya refugees and also a direction to the Centre to deport those who have been detained in the sub-jail in Jammu.

The Apex Court noted that two serious allegations have been made in the Centre's reply in the matter which relates to threat to internal security and that agents and touts are providing a safe passage into India for illegal immigrants due to the porous nature of landed borders.

The bench also noted the Centre's contention that a similar application challenging the deportation of Rohingyas from Assam was dismissed by the top court in October 2018.

"Therefore, it is not possible to grant the interim relief prayed for. However, it is made clear that the Rohingyas in Jammu, on whose behalf the present application is filed, shall not be deported unless the procedure prescribed for such deportation is followed. Interlocutory application is disposed of accordingly," the bench said in its order.

"It is also true that the rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 are available to all persons who may or may not be citizens. But the right not to be deported, is ancillary or concomitant to the right to reside or settle in any part of the territory of India guaranteed under Article 19(1)(e)," it said.

The bench also noted there is (Contd on page 6 Col 4)

ED summons Mehbooba's mother

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: Enforcement Directorate today summoned People's Democratic Party president, Mehbooba Mufti's mother in a money laundering case.

The Enforcement Directorate officials visited Mehbooba Mufti's Gupkar residence and served notice to her mother, Gulshan Nazir for appearance before ED at their office in Srinagar on April 15.

The ED had summoned Mehbooba Mufti for questioning in money laundering case on March 15.

Contempt against PSC Chairman, Secy

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: The High Court has initiated contempt proceedings against the Chairman and Secretary of Public Services Commission for not filling up the post of Deputy Controller Drugs and Food Control Organization and directed them to appear before the court to show cause as to why they not be punished for defiance of court orders.

The Court vide its judgment (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

NH to remain closed every Wed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: The authorities today ordered closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on every Wednesday in the month of April and May for maintenance work.

The traffic won't be allowed to ply on the particular days in view of the repairs/ maintenance on the only all weather road connecting Valley with the rest of the country.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Check laxity in containing COVID-19: PM to States

NEW DELHI, Apr 8:

Noting that administration was appearing lax in many States with daily COVID-19 cases hitting new peaks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today urged Chief Ministers to strengthen their efforts for the next 2-3 weeks to check the spread of the virus on a "war-footing" and proposed to call the night curfew clamped in many places as "Corona curfew" to maintain public awareness about the pandemic.

He also called for observing a vaccine festival between April 11-14 to inoculate the maximum number of eligible beneficiaries.

Vaccine festival from Apr 11-14

April 11 is the birth anniversary of noted social reformer Jyotirao Phule, he noted.

In his virtual interaction with Chief Ministers to discuss the pandemic situation and the ongoing vaccination drive, Modi strongly defended the current eligibility criteria for vaccination amid demand by some States, ruled by opposition parties, to open the shot for all above 18 years.

India's criteria is no different from the most prosperous countries in the world, and it will (Contd on page 6 Col 4)

3 militants killed, AGuH chief trapped in Shopian encounter

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR Apr 8: Three militants were killed in an ongoing encounter that raged between militants and security forces in Jan Mohalla in South Kashmir's Shopian district today.

Three militants were killed in the gunfight so far while chief of AGuH (Jaish-e-Mohammad) has been trapped in the area.

An official said that those killed have been identified as Imtiaz Ahmad of Dadsar Tral in Pulwama district, Adil Lone of Khasipora in Shopian and Muzamil Tantray of Jammagri in district Shopian.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Range and GOC Victor Force rushed to the gunfight site and are personally monitoring the situation as the

militants were trapped in Central Jamia Masjid Jan Mohalla Shopian.

An official said that the operation will take time as sanctity of the Mosque is top priority. The cordon around the area has been tightened and lights installed.

Earlier in the day, a group of youth pelted stones at the

*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](#)

security forces to disrupt the operation. However, security forces engaged them and they were chased away.

Meanwhile, police in a tweet informed that a top commander has been trapped in the area.

"#ShopianEncounterUpdate: Chief of proscribed #terrorist

outfit AGuH (JeM) trapped. #Operation going on. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Zone Police tweeted.

Earlier, police said that a joint team of Police, Army and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation on specific information about the presence of militants in the area.

He said that as the troops approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them, which was retaliated, thus triggering an encounter in which three militants were killed. He said that the militants have not been identified yet.

Three soldiers were also injured in the gun battle. Two of the injured have been shifted to 92-Army Base Hospital for treat-

NIA nabs militant at Airport on deportation from Kuwait

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Cracking the whip on overseas terror modules, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) today arrested a person upon his arrival at the Jammu airport in connection with a case of infiltration of militants in Poonch and smuggling of narcotics.

Accused Shahid Naveed of Mendhar in Poonch district is alleged to be a close associate of Sher Ali, the main coordinator and facilitator of militant activities of various groups in the area, the officials said.

Ali was arrested on February 17, and Naveed's name came up

during his interrogation.

Both Ali and Naveed were operating from Kuwait, and their involvement in terror activities surfaced during the investigation of a case lodged in Mendhar police station last year

*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](#)

following the killing of two Pakistani terrorists affiliated with the JK Ghaznavi Force in an encounter at Surankote in Poonch on December 13.

Sources said the Government of India had taken up deportation of Shahid Naveed with Kuwait where he was working but also running terror module simul-

taneously. A detailed dossier had been sent to Kuwait Government, based on which he was deported after Kuwait Government was satisfied with proof against the individual.

He was arrested by the NIA at Jammu Airport soon after he landed here in a plane and whisked away to a safer location for sustained questioning in connection with his involvement in running terror module in Mendhar area of Poonch district.

His questioning could lead to more arrests of militants and Over Ground Workers besides recoveries, sources said, describing his arrest as "quite significant" which would help (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Malik resigns as Dy AG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Arshad Majid Malik, Dy Advocate General J&K High Court, Jammu today resigned from his post and sent his resignation to the Secretary to the Govt of J&K, Law Department.

A M Malik, hailing from Darhal Malikan (Rajouri) almost served as Dy Advocate General for three years and represented important departments like Rural Development Department, Transport Department and J&K Project Construction Corporation Ltd.

In his resignation letter, copy of which has also been forwarded to the Advocate General J&K, Malik did not mention reason of resigning from the posts and only said that he enjoyed his assignment because of the cooperation extended by different officers of the UT Govt and others.

6 designated as Spl Secys 104 officers promoted to Special Scale of KAS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Government has ordered promotion of 104 Selection Grade officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administration to the Special Scale of KAS with immediate effect.

Meanwhile, out of 104, six officers have been designated as Special Secretaries in their respective departments.

According to the order, the officers are Hashmat Ali Khan, Nazim Zai Khan, Bashir Ahmad Dar, Shakeel-u-Rehman Rather, Pradeep Kumar, Rohit Khajuria, Rahul Sharma, Hashmat Ali Yattoo, Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu, Mohammad Akbar Wani,

Happiest day of my life, says wife

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Apr 8: The festivities began at the house of Constable Rakeshwar Singh Manhas, a CoBRA commando from Jammu, as the news of his release from the captivity of the Naxals came out this evening.

*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](#)

As soon as the visuals of the Rakeshwar stepping out of an ambulance was aired by some



Women and children celebrating safe release of CRPF commando Rakeshwar Singh Manhas at his residence in Barnai area of Jammu.

news channels, there was no end to the happiness of the family members, their relatives, friends

and neighbours, and everybody was celebrating in one way or other.

As per the reports, the son of the soil was released by the Naxals after a team of two emi-

Shah speaks to commando

NEW DELHI, Apr 8:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today spoke to the CoBRA commando who was released by the Naxals in Chhattisgarh after six days of

(Contd on page 6 Col 6)

ment people, including a person from the tribal community, was nominated by the Chhattisgarh Government to secure his release.

(Contd on page 6 Col 4)

Amendment in Sec 133-H of Land Revenue Act needed

Mahajan, Khatri, Sikhs deprived of sale, purchase of agriculture land in some areas

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Though with abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019 by the Central Government, large sections of people including West Pakistani refugees, Valmikiaks etc who were deprived of their genuine rights by previous successive Governments got their due, the Mahajans, Khatri and Sikhs of the Union Territory have started facing new inequality as they have been deprived certain rights of sale and purchase of agriculture land and taking up farming as a profession.

ated with amendment in the State Land Law, sources told the Excelsior.

They said at least more than 10 lakh Mahajans, over five lakh Khatri and lakhs of Sikhs have been deprived of their fundamental right to buy or sell agricultural land as these communi-

*For full order, visit [www.dailyexcelsior.com](#)

ties didn't figure in the list of "non-agriculturists" under Section 6 of obsolete J&K Alienation of Land Act (No V of 1995 Samvat) enacted in Maharaja Hari Singh's time and repealed on October 26, 2020 along with half a dozen other land laws. The 'casteist' provi-

son was incorporated in J&K Land Revenue Act of Samvat 1996. Under the repealed law, lists of agricultural and non-agriculturist communities were notified, province and district wise, in November 1939.

However, under J&K Alienation of Land Act, it had relaxation clause for sale of land to non-agriculturists up to four kanals of land for construction of houses. Moreover, after independence, this law was not strictly followed in practice. In view of this, many families of these communities have agricultural land in their names, the sources pointed out.

But the new Section, accord- (Contd on page 6 Col 4)