

**Spike unabated:
1.45 lakh new
cases in India**

NEW DELHI, Apr 10:
With a record 1,45,384 fresh cases, India's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 1,32,05,926, the Health Ministry said today.
The number of active cases has breached the 10-lakh mark again after around six-and-a-half months, while the death toll due to the viral disease has gone up to 1,68,436 with 794 more fatalities, the highest since October 18 last year, the ministry's data updated at 8 am
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**India, China
agree to resolve
outstanding issues**

NEW DELHI, Apr 10:
India and China held detailed deliberations on disengagement in remaining areas of Eastern Ladakh and agreed to jointly maintain stability on the ground, avoid any new incidents and resolve the outstanding issues in an "expeditious manner".
A day after the 11th round of military talks that lasted for 13 hours, the Indian Army today said it was highlighted during the parleys that completion of
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**Shahid, Rehana
get new postings**

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 10: The Government today ordered transfer and postings of two IAS and KAS officers.

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, holding additional charge of Mission Director, Skill Development Mission has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department. He will also hold the charge of Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth and
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**Won't hesitate in
banning rallies: EC**

NEW DELHI, Apr 10:
Amid rising Coronavirus cases, the Election Commission has flagged instances of star campaigners and political leaders campaigning without masks, and warned it will not hesitate to ban rallies if COVID guidelines issued by it last year are breached.
In a letter to leaders of all recognised political parties on Friday, the poll panel said, "It is widely known that in the recent weeks, COVID cases are being reported in larger numbers."
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**5 killed in Bengal
poll violence**

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI, Apr 10:
West Bengal plunged into chaos today when five people were killed, including four in CISF firing, during the fourth phase of polling, pushing the Election Commission to bar entry of political leaders from outside in the troubled Cooch Behar district for the next 72 hours.
The deaths, all in Cooch Behar's Sitalkuchi, set off a political firestorm in the politically volatile state, with the
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Meat shops to remain shut in JMC areas during Navratras

Resolution for protocol, security, allowances for Councillors passed

Sanjeev K Sharma
JAMMU, Apr 10: From resolution demanding defining of protocol for the Councillors of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to discussion on opening of meat shops, even for few hours, during Navratras as the holy month of Ramzan is also coming simultaneously with the nine holy days of Hindus, remained the business during the General House Meeting (GHM) of JMC today.
Rajinder Sharma, JMC Councillor of Ward 16 introduced the resolution demanding defining of protocol for JMC Councillors, provision of security

**164 BSF jawans of one battalion infected in Udhampur
J&K cases cross 1000; 28-year-old youth
among 5 die in Jammu, one in Kashmir**

Another JU Prof, 38 female students among 44 test +ve

SKIMS cancels leave of staff, coaching centre shut in Srinagar

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Apr 10: For the first time this year, Jammu and Kashmir today recorded COVID positive cases in four figures at 1005 including 706 in Kashmir and 299 in Jammu besides six COVID fatalities, five of which were reported in Jammu and Samba districts and include a 28-year-old youth.
Another Professor in Jammu University, posted in Chemistry Department, 38 female students of Priyadarshini and Sarojini Naidu hostels and five staff members besides 11 workers and staffers at Kiru project in Kishtwar district were found infected during testing for Coronavirus.
Srinagar and Jammu districts continued to account for maximum cases in both the divisions with 492 and 183 positives.

Reasi district in Jammu showed second highest cases in the region at 58 including 39 travellers, majority of whom were tourists who were either sent back from Railway Station or lodged in COVID centres.
A 28-year-old youth hailing from Sarore in Samba district, who committed suicide, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Government Medical College (GMC) this evening, Medical Superintendent Dr Dara Singh said, adding that the body has been packed as per COVID protocol for cremation.
Samba district reported another Corona fatality when 78-year-old man from village Dug Channi in Ramgarh tehsil died of ailments and pathogen.
Among three COVID deaths reported in Jammu district, one was a 70-year-old woman from Bathindi while two others were men aged 71 and 91 years old hailing from Gadigarh and Nanak Nagar respectively. They were co-morbid and had tested positive for COVID-19.
Today's five deaths have taken Corona toll in Jammu region to 752 and that of Jammu district to 391 and Samba to 43. Casualties in other districts include 64 in Doda, 58 Udhampur, 56 Rajouri, 53 Kathua, 26 Poonch, 23 Ramban, 22 Kishtwar and 16 in Reasi district.
For second consecutive day today, 329 Rapid Antigen Tests were conducted in the Jammu University including Priyadarshini and Sarojini Naidu Girls Hostels in which 38 female students and five staff members of the hostels tested positive for the virus. A Professor in Chemistry Department of the Jammu University also tested positive today.
Yesterday, 26 staff members including one female Head of Department and a Professor were found infected in the Jammu University. A total of five Professors have so far tested positive in the University during last five days. Testing will continue on Monday and Tuesday as well.
As many as 164 BSF jawans of one particular battalion stationed at Jaganoo in Udhampur district have tested positive for COVID-19 during past couple of days.
Officials said they had reported back at the battalion headquarters mostly from Maharashtra and Gujarat and were tested for COVID-19 before resumption of duties.
Lt Col Inam Danish Khan, Classified Microbiologist Command Hospital Udhampur, when contacted, confirmed to
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**'Mehbooba also dodged people'
Dr Jitendra accuses successive J&K, Central Govts of stalling Shahpur Kandi Project**

Avtar Bhat
KATHUA, Apr 10: Turning tables on successive Central and the erstwhile State Governments who were dominated by Kashmir centric politicians, Union Minister of State in PMO with independent charge of North Eastern States, Dr Jitendra Singh held
*Watch video on
www.excelsiornews.com

ment of Kandi belt of Kathua and Samba with the result thousands Kanals of land in this belt continued to remain barren for decades together.
Dr Jitendra Singh, while giving full credit to Modi for that in 2015 when due to shelling from across the border some leaders of J&K were crying to revoke the Indus Water Treaty and stop the supply of water to Pakistan, "I put a small note to PM with



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh laying foundation stone of Shahpur Kandi Ravi canal at Mahanpur on Saturday.

them responsible for stalling the construction of much talked about Shahpur Kandi Project for 45 long years. He also did not spare the former J&K CM, Mehbooba Mufti for her negative role in signing the agreement with Punjab Government on the project after an initiative was taken by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in this regard.
Addressing a rally after laying foundation of balance portion of Ravi Canal of Shahpur Kandi Dam Project at Basantpur near here today, Dr Jitendra Singh said that with their ulterior motives the Kashmir centric politicians retarded the develop-

resolving decades long impasse on project made it clear that there was no hindrance in signing of agreement and execution of Project from Punjab Government but it were the successive Governments of J&K who delayed it as they were not interested in the development of Kandi belt of Jammu.
The Union Minister said
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Govt to train 5000 young professionals

Aim to bridge rural-urban gap, easy credit for business ventures: LG

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Apr 10: The J&K Government is working on robust and efficient digital network infrastructure in the hinterland to provide transparent financial services to the people. The aim is to bridge the gap between rural & urban pockets, and ensure that easy credit is accessible to all those interested in starting their own business ventures.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his address at a day-long conference on "Education to Entrepreneurship" here at SKICC.
The conference was organized by Mission Youth, J&K in collaboration with the Taleem-o-Tarbiyat initiative to promote economic development and entrepreneurship, and skill development here today.
Speaking on the occasion, Sinha congratulated Zafar



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressing a conference at SKICC Srinagar on Saturday.

encourage sustainable livelihood of the youth in Jammu & Kashmir, with emphasis on education, character building, entrepreneurship, and skill development here today.
Sureshwal, former Chancellor, Maulana Azad Urdu University & Head, Taleem-o-Tarbiyat for taking the initiative to provide

JMC incurring revenue loss of Rs 1.25 lakh per day by holding up advertisement rights

Delaying tactics to benefit illegal hoarding mafia

Nishikant Khajuria
JAMMU, Apr 10: Continuing with its delaying tactics in allotment of sole advertising rights, Jammu Municipal Corporation is incurring revenue loss of more than Rs 1.25 lakh per day for allegedly benefitting the mafia involved in installing illegal hoardings in Jammu city.

exploiting the situation for wrongful gain through allowing illegal hoardings within the Municipal limits.
Notwithstanding the submission of a formal clarification by its Law Officer over the pending litigation and purportedly giving a no objection opinion in allotment of advertisement rights to the highest bidder, the JMC has now constituted a committee to recommend next course of action and thus further delayed the matter for indefinite period to allegedly benefit the nexus involved in installing illegal hoardings.
As already reported by the Excelsior, the earlier contract for advertising rights through hoardings and pole kiosks within the Municipal limits had expired in June last year and fresh tenders for the same were invited in December last with January 19, 2021 as the last date. Rs 4 crores per year was the base price of bidding with contract period for five years from the date of signing of the agreement.
January 22, 2021 was the date of opening technical bid after which financial bids were also submitted by the participating firms. However, JMC
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**JU suspends
offline activities,
postpones exams**

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 10: Consequent upon the order by the Deputy Commissioner Jammu regarding declaration of area in and around Jammu University as micro containment zone, the University authorities today ordered suspension of all the offline activities for indefinite period and postponement of all the examinations till April 15.
All the offline activities like classes, research work and offices in the university campus shall remain closed till further order while the semester examinations, which were scheduled to be held on April 11, 12 and 15, 2021, have been postponed and fresh dates shall be communicated later on.
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**Militant killed, 2 jawans injured in Shopian
6 OGWs of LeT arrested for killing of Councillors**

Fayaz Bukhari
SRINAGAR, Apr 10: Police today busted a Lashkar-e-Toiba network who were allegedly behind the attack on Municipal Councillors in North Kashmir's Sopore in which two of them were killed last month.

Councillors and a cop were killed, security forces carried out multiple search operations in Dangepora, Brath Kalan, Sidiq Colony Sopore and Model Town, Batpora. "Some suspects were picked up for the questioning and one of them OGW Ashiq Ahmad Pandith of Dangepora revealed that the militants - Mudasir Pandith alias Maaz along with foreign militant alias Asrar before militant attack had stayed at his residence for three days and had planned the whole militant attack", he added.
Name of another suspect Junaid Ahmad Shusha of Model Town Sopore also surfaced during the investigations. "He disclosed that he came in contact with Mudasir Pandith alias Maaz in the month of November 2020 at the residence of his cousin, Umair Ashiq in Model Town Sopore", he said.
Maaz along with his two foreign militants alias Ahmad and alias Abu Sariya stayed for the night on instructions of Saeed Imran, an OGW of LeT outfit.
"Junaid Ahmad Shusha and Umair Ashiq were convinced by Maaz to work for LeT and they were introduced to Sajid Ali of Pakistan occupied Kashmir handler of LeT. Upon Imran's disclosure,
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Funds under 10% EWS quota lapsed twice by GMC Jammu, mandatory infra work yet to start

Release delayed by Admn Deptt

Govind Sharma
JAMMU, Apr 10: Due to absolute non-seriousness on the part of those at the helm of affairs in Health & Medical Education Department J&K, funds to the tune of Rs 32.4 crore received from Government of India for initiating mandatory infrastructure work under 10% EWS quota of MBBS seats lapsed twice in the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu.
Official sources told

Excelsior that National Medical Commission had approved and allotted on 21st June, 2019, 30 MBBS seats each to Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), Jammu and Srinagar and 25 seats to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Srinagar for the academic session 2019-20 under 10% Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota.
With 30 additional seats, the total MBBS seats in GMC Jammu reached 180. However, out of these, only 150 MBBS seats are recognized and the additional 30 MBBS seats under EWS quota still await recognition. For getting grant of recognition of 30 MBBS seats (under EWS quota), GMC Jammu had to raise additional infrastructure as per National Medical Council of India (NMC) norms.
Sources said that to meet additional requirement of infrastructure, machinery and equipment proposal to match the minimum standards of NMC, GMC Jammu was granted Rs 32.4 crore by Government of India (under 90% Central share) on Jan 27, 2020 so that the required infrastructure work can be completed timely for necessary grant of recognition of 30 MBBS seats (under EWS quota) before the candidate pass final year.
"Subsequently, Government of Jammu and Kashmir without wasting any time, realizing the importance of the said project linked with the career of 30 MBBS seats per batch, immedi-
(Contd on page 4 Col 5)