

## Final call to be taken after assessment of situation ECI sets process for Assembly elections in J&K in motion, draft rolls by Aug 31

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, June 15: The Election Commission of India (ECI) today virtually set the process for conduct of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in motion by initiating exercise for revision of Electoral Rolls and publication of draft rolls by August 31.

This follows a meeting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner (EC) Anup Chandra had in New Delhi after which they directed Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Jammu and Kashmir Hirdesh Kumar to map the redrawn Assembly constituencies.

Jammu and Kashmir has been allotted 90-seat Legislative Assembly including 47 constituencies in Kashmir and 43 in Jammu while there is provision for nomination of two Women. The Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai which submitted its findings to the Union Law Ministry in May has recommended nomination of two Kashmiri

### \*Pre-revision activities due to redrawn segments

Pandit migrants (including one woman) and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) refugees to the Assembly.

"In what could be a major step for conduct of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the Election Commission has directed that the draft rolls will be prepared by August 31," official sources told the Excelsior and said if the Election Commission thinks that situation is fit for electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir it can conduct Assembly polls in the UT anytime between October-December.

However, holding the Assembly elections will depend on security situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir then. Though the Election Commission is sole authority for conduct of polls, it has to take reports of the Union Home Ministry and Jammu and Kashmir Government into consideration before taking a call on the

polls. It can also send independent observers to assess the situation.

The electoral roll revision needs to be carried out before the first Assembly election is conducted in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir is without Assembly since 2018. The BJP had withdrawn support to Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP Government on June 19, 2018 after which Mufti resigned as the Chief Minister. Then Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Satyapal Malik had dissolved the Legislative Assembly on November 22, 2018.

Sources said that intensive and time-bound pre-revision activities are required due to the redrawing of electoral constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir. While Jammu got six additional seats, Kashmir was given one.

Directions have also been (Contd on page 9 Col 1)

## Nearly 70 pc addl companies deployed in Valley NSA, MHA officials review J&K situation, yatra arrangements

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and senior officers of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs today reviewed security situation in Jammu and Kashmir especially in the wake of upcoming annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji beginning June 30 for which arrangements are in full swing, in the Union Capital.

While no official statement was issued on review of security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir especially the Valley where a number of militants including top commanders have been killed during past few days, sources said the NSA met top officials of the Union Home Ministry including those dealing with Jammu and Kashmir and had detailed review of situation with them.

Security review meeting lasted an hour.

A series of security review meetings have been held by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in the recent past on situation developing in the Valley in the wake of targeted killings and security

arrangements required to be made for annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji shrine.

Shri Amarnath yatra this year will last 43 days from June 30 to August 11.

"Presently, security situation is well under control. There has been no major attack or targeted killing by the militants. Instead, number of militants including Pakistanis and top commanders have been killed in the Valley," sources pointed out saying the Central as well as Jammu and Kashmir Governments are satisfied with the situation after surge in targeted killings but want the present trend to be maintained to ensure that violence is not revived ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji yatra.

The Union Home Ministry has deputed 350 additional companies of paramilitary forces to Jammu and Kashmir for security of the pilgrims.

"Most of these companies have arrived in the UT. Nearly 70 percent of them are being deployed in Kashmir and 30 per- (Contd on page 9 Col 1)

## 17 Oppn parties to field common candidate Mamata mentions names of Gandhi, Farooq for Prez election

\*Rajnath speaks to Pawar, Patnaik, others

NEW DELHI, June 15:

The next meeting of major opposition parties to deliberate on a consensus candidate for the Presidential election is likely to be held on June 20-21 and will be convened by NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai, senior leaders today.

After the first meeting called by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Delhi and attended by 17 parties, the leaders said that it has been decided that a common candidate who will "uphold the democratic ethos of the country" will be chosen as the opposition nominee.

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

### \*Notification for recruitment to come in mid-July

## Aiming to enhance profile of Indian Army under Agnipath scheme: Lt Gen Dwivedi

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 15: Army today said that under the 'Agnipath' scheme it is aimed to enhance the youthful profile for organizational needs by reducing the average age profile of soldiers from 32 years to 26 years over a period of time.

Addressing a press conference here, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi said that

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

'Agnipath' is a transformational reform for the Armed Forces and the Nation while it aims to bring paradigm changes in the HR management of the Indian Army. "The scheme offers the oppor-



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, DMK leader TR Baalu, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Samajwadi Party president Akhlesh Yadav at a press conference after meeting of Opposition parties ahead of Presidential poll in New Delhi on Wednesday. (UNI)



Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi along with other officers addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Wednesday. —Excelsior/Shakeel

tunity for youth from across the country, driven by the patriotic spirit and desirous of serving the country to serve in the Indian Armed Forces as Agniveers for a short duration of four years," he said. The Indian Army said that the biggest takeaway is to enhance the (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

## Rajni Bala's shooter trapped in Kulgam Killer of Bank Manager among 2 militants shot dead in Shopian

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, June 15: Two militants including one involved in the killing of Bank Manager were killed in an overnight gun battle in Kanji Ullar area of South Kashmir's Shopian district today.

Inspector General of Police Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said that one of the killed militants was involved in the killing of Bank Manager Vijay Kumar. He identified him as Jan Mohd Lone, resident of Braripora Shopian and the other militant has been identified as Tufail Nazir Ganie, resident of Rammagri Shopian.

Manager of the Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Vijay Kumar, was killed in Kulgam on June 2 inside

his bank.

Earlier, acting on specific information regarding presence of militants in village Kanji Ullar area of Shopian, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, 34 RR of Army and CRPF.

The hiding militants fired indiscriminately upon the search

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

party which was retaliated, leading to an encounter in which two militants were killed.

As per police records, both the killed militants were linked to the LeT and were part of groups involved in several killings and attacks.

The IGP said that Jan Mohammad was earlier working

as OGW of LeT's district commander Adil Ramzan and he killed Bank Manager on the direction of said LeT commander. "Since then we have been tracking him," he said.

Tufail Nazir had earlier escaped from two encounters at Chaki Samad area of Kulgam on April 9 and Khur-Batpora area of Kulgam on April 11 this year.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including one AK-47 rifle and one pistol were recovered from the site of encounter," police said.

In the meantime, two militants have been trapped in Mishipora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district today.

The operation was launched (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

## NIA raids at multiple locations in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 15: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today raided multiple locations in Kashmir in connection with the trans-Line of Control (LoC) trade.

The raids were being conducted at Baramulla and Srinagar districts in connection with a militan-

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

cy funding case.

The raids were conducted at the residences of Zahoor Ahmed Malla son Bashir Ahmed Malla of Old Town Baramulla, who is currently lodged in Udhampur jail, Mehrajdin Bhat son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat of Khawjabagh Baramulla and Feroz Ahmad Sheikh, Khalid Sheikh and Zahoor Sheikh sons of Gulam Ahmad

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### Curfew relaxed in Bhandarwah

Excelsior Correspondent

BHANDARWAH/JAMMU, June 15: Curfew was relaxed for two hours in Bhandarwah town of

■ Pic on page 9

Doda district after seven days today while it was completely lifted in Kishtwar district.

Curfew and strict restrictions (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

### Rajnath arrives on 2-day visit today

NEW DELHI, June 15:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will pay a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir beginning tomorrow during which he will review the overall security situation in the Union Territory, official sources said.

The Defence Minister will visit various forward areas and (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

## Two brothers from Doda detained Explosives to be used for fabricating IED seized from Jammu-bound bus

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: Police today recovered explosive material from a bus on way from Doda to Jammu which was to be used for fabricating a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and detained two persons.

The explosive material had been kept on slab meant for keeping luggage of the passengers inside the

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

bus, SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli told the Excelsior.

He said the seized material include wire, detonators and explosives, concealed in a box, which hadn't been assembled.



A box containing gelatin sticks, detonators and a wire was seized from a bus by police at Jhajjar Kotli on Wednesday. (UNI)

"The explosives were to be assembled for making it an IED," Kohli said.

Two brothers from Bijami Bhagwah in Doda district travelling in the bus have been detained for questioning.

A joint team of Jhajjar Kotli Police Station headed by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma under the supervision of SP Rural Sanjay Sharma made the seizures.

Sources said there was specific input of Jammu Police and Military Intelligence that explosives were being smuggled in a bus from Doda to Jammu.

A joint naka was laid by police at Sokerat Morh under (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

## Govt seals Centaur, takes over its possession; employees in lurk

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 15: Government last evening took over the possession of Centaur hotel and sealed the building after the Hotel Corporation of India violated conditions of the lease agreement.

An order issued by Tehsildar concerned said "it is hereby informed that the Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar has been sealed today on 15th June, 2022, under J-K Public premises (eviction of unauthorised occupants Act, 1988) before me under my seal and signature. Therefore, no one is allowed to enter the main gate till further orders otherwise stern action shall be taken under prevalent law."

A prior notice was served to the employees of the Centaur Hotel here in Srinagar in April this

year, asking them to vacate the premises within 45 days from the date of issuing the eviction notice.

As per the notice, Government has charged the Hotel Corporation of India of violating conditions of the lease agreement by subletting the Hotel to a third party.

As per Cabinet decision No. 237 dated 25.06.1979, the then State Government vide Govt order No.118 of 1981 dated 17.10.1981 leased out a piece of land measuring 13 acres to the Hotel Corporation of India Pvt. Ltd. for a period of 99 years and accordingly a lease agreement was executed on 10.03.1982.

The terms and conditions in the agreement stipulated that the ownership rights over the structure on the land shall be equally held by the parties, the use whereof

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

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