

## NIA raids Khurram's residence

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 SRINAGAR, Mar 27: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today conducted a raid at the residence of incarcerated human rights defender, Khurram Parvez, at Sonwar in a militancy funding case.

A statement issued here by the NIA said that the agency conducted a search at Sonwar Bagh, Srinagar in RC-37/2020/NIA/DLI case.

"The case pertains to collection and transfer of funds by certain NGOs, Trusts, Societies and Organizations on behalf of separatists/terrorist organizations in order to sustain secessionist and terror activities in Kashmir Valley", read the statement of the NIA.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)  
**Cop suspended, SHO attached for bribery**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Mar 27: Police today suspended a Head Constable and attached Station House Officer (SHO) Nishat with District Police Line Srinagar, pending inquiry, amid allegations of bribery.

Police Head Constable had allegedly approached a person and sought money as corruption.

A senior police officer said that amid allegations of corruption, the Head Constable has been placed under suspension. "SHO PS Nishat has been attached to DPL," he added.

"The inquiry is going on and a preliminary report is expected by this evening following which future course of action would be decided," the officer said when (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## Two officers adjusted

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 27: The Government today ordered adjustment of two JKAS officers. Qamar Sajad, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department was posted as Additional Registrar, Cooperatives, Kashmir, against as available vacancy.

Vivek Modi, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD has been posted as Director, Land Management, Jammu Development Authority, against a vacancy.

## Petrol, diesel prices surge

**NEW DELHI, Mar 27:**

Petrol price today was hiked by 50 paise a litre and diesel by 55 paise, taking the total increase in rates since resumption of daily price revision less than a week back to Rs 3.70-3.75 per litre.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 99.11 per litre as against Rs 98.61 previously while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 89.87 per litre to Rs 90.42, according to a price notification of State fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending upon the incidence of local taxation.

This is the fifth increase in prices since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## 'World famous Ladakh apricot now in Dubai' Let's make local 'global': PM

**NEW DELHI, Mar 27:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said India achieving its export target of USD 400 billion this fiscal shows that the demand for its items is increasing all over the world, and asserted that when every Indian gets 'vocal for local', it does not take much time for the "local to become global".

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi also noted that the Government has purchased items worth more than Rs one lakh crore in the last one year through Government e-Market with close to 1.25 lakh small entrepreneurs and shopkeepers having sold their goods directly to the Government.

From a time when only big companies could sell goods to the Government to now when

## Online registration to start from April 11 43-day long Shri Amarnath yatra to start on June 30: LG

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 41st Board meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board at the Raj Bhavan here today.

During the meeting, it was decided that this year, the 43-day holy pilgrimage will commence on 30th June with all COVID protocols in place and will culminate, as per the tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan i.e. 11th August.

Further, the online registration for Shri Amarnathji Yatra will start from 11th April.

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

During the Board meeting, the Lt Governor, members of the Board- Swami Avdeshanand Giri Ji Maharaj; D C Raina, Kailash Mehra Sadhu; K N Rai; K N Shrivastava; Pitambar Lal Gupta; Dr Shailish Raina; Prof Vishwamurti Shastri and the senior officers of UT administration also had in-depth discussions on various issues on upcoming Yatra.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chairing SASB meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

Sinha called on the officials to be proactive and ensure elaborate arrangements for conducting smooth yatra as large number of devotees are expected to arrive to pay their obeisance at the holy cave this year. He also said the Government is introducing RFID system for pilgrims to track their movement en-route to ensure their well-being.

He laid special emphasis on providing best-in-class health facilities to all the visiting devotees and service providers, strengthening telecommunication channels for Yatris, besides use of latest technological measures to achieve optimal synergy between the different government departments and agencies.

Nitishwar Kumar, CEO, connection with the annual Yatra, besides presenting agenda items before the Board.

Several suggestions and inputs were presented by the members of SASB which included sustained media campaign via social media, mobile app and youtube videos for facilitating people with all the information regarding the Yatra viz-a viz: how to avail yatra services, do's and don'ts, mandatory health checkups.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board has decided that the Yatra would commence simultaneously from both the routes - the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district. The Board has also decided to put in place a daily route-wise pilgrims ceiling to 10,000 excluding Yatris who would travel by helicopters. The board has also decided to extend the free-of-cost battery car service for Yatris at 2.75 Km-long Baltal to Domel stretch.

The Lt Governor during the meeting also directed for sending special invites to Akhada (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## Talwara migrants allege step motherly treatment with militancy victims of Jammu

**Awaiting 'Kashmir Files' on their plights**

**Nishikant Khajuria**

JAMMU, Mar 27: As the Bollywood movie 'Kashmir Files' invites worldwide attention towards alleged brutalities committed on Kashmiri Pandits and consequent exodus of the community from the Valley three decades ago, militancy victims of Jammu region, who are still living in miserable conditions at

migrant camp in Talwara area of Reasi, rued step motherly treatment of the successive Governments towards their plights.

Recalling the horrible massacres of innocent villagers at Prankot-Dhakikot, Thub,



A view of migrant camp at Talwara in Reasi district.

Morha Salui, Kantha, Galyot Centre paid any attention and other areas of Jammu towards their miseries with the

result they are still living in hellish conditions at shabby Talwara migrant camp for the last more than two decades.

"Kashmir Files' has brought into light the atrocities committed on Kashmiri Pandits and their consequent migration from the Valley, but there is no one to listen to the tale of militancy victims of Jammu region, who were similarly forced to flee from their homes by the same terrorists," said Jagdev Singh of Prankot, a migrant putting up in Talwara camp near Reasi town.

Narrating their hardships in the dilapidated camp, one Tunna Devi, whose mother was among the slain victims of Prankot massacre, said that they were living in miserable conditions in the migrant (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## After 2nd World War, Jammu breaks 77-yr-old record of day temp

**Gopal Sharma**

JAMMU, Mar 27: After World War II, Jammu City today broke the 77-year-old record of highest temperature for the month of March as the City of Temples today recorded a maximum temperature of 37.3 degree Celsius.

The maximum temperature in Jammu on March 27 settled at 37.3 degrees Celsius, breaking a record achieved during 2nd World War in the month of March.

A senior Scientist in SKUAST said that previous highest day temperature of 37.2 degrees Celsius was recorded on March 31, 1945, when the second world war was going on. It came to end on Sept 2, 1945. The excessive use of explosives during bombing world over and

emission of radiations, led to massive global warming and sharp rise in temperature in the atmosphere.

Apparently, due to massive bombing during ongoing Russian- Ukraine war for the last over one month now, the global warming has impacted the temperature in many parts of the world. Sharp rise in temperature in this part of the region in March, could be one of the reasons behind this, the Scientist added.

Director Meteorological Department, J&K Sonum Lotus when contacted said since the last days, the weather has remained mainly fair and clear in Jammu and Kashmir due to absence of any low pressure system or localised weather system. "Jammu's temperature has broken the record of last 77 years as

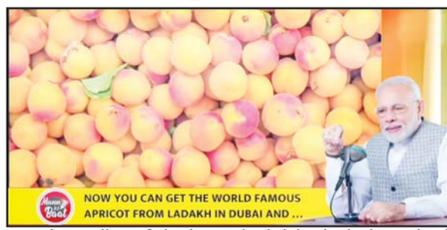
on March 31, 1945, the City as per record available with us, had recorded 37.2 degree Celsius temperature," Lotus added.

"Global warming could be the main reason behind this sharp rise. Dry and hot weather is likely to prevail for the next few days as well," Lotus maintained.

According to the Meteorological department, the maximum temperature in Jammu, the winter capital of J&K UT, is 8.4 degrees above normal during this part of the season.

However, the night temperature was near normal at 16.9 degrees Celsius, the spokesperson said.

Summer capital Srinagar is also witnessing hotter days than usual with day temperature settling at 25 degrees Celsius, 7.4 notches (Contd on page 4 Col 1)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a podium.

lauded the rise in the market for Ayush products and start-ups related to it and asked entrepreneurs to try to make their portals in all languages recognised by the United Nations as there are many countries where English is neither spoken nor understood much.

"Promote your information keeping such countries in mind as well. I am sure that soon, The Prime Minister also

## NC, Cong had vested interest in KP exodus: Dr Jitendra

**Excelsior Correspondent**

**NEW DELHI, Mar 27:**

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today alleged that contrary to the myth being spread that the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) was engineered by the then Governor Jagmohan at the behest of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the matter of fact is that the National Conference (NC), Congress and their Kashmir-centric allies had a vested interest in KP exodus because it gave impetus to their policy of appeasement towards a particular community and benefited them by creating a deep communal divide.

Speaking at a largely attended programme organised to name a Govt School after Shaheed Tika Lal Taploo, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the aftermath of Kashmiri Pandit exodus and the overwhelming atmosphere of terror that followed, the voter turn out in 1996 and subsequent elections remained confined to around 10%, which the National Conference and its allies were successful in easily manipulating to get their members elected as MLAs and MPs.

He recalled that he had on

## School named after Taploo



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a gathering of displaced KPs at Rohini, New Delhi on Sunday.

the floor of the Parliament said that there should be a provision to fix the minimum threshold of voter turnout percentage to allow a candidate to be recognized as having been elected as the member of Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, he and several other youth activists of his generation were eye-witness to each sequence of exodus beginning from the arrival of first batches of Kashmiri Pandits at Geeta Bhawan Jammu and makeshift Camps at Mishriwala and Nagrota, where they lived in most unhygienic conditions with the drains passing through the kitchen area and hardly any toilet facility available. It was pathetic

to see upper middle class Kashmiri Pandit families forced to live in a makeshift single room shed without any basic amenities. Dr Jitendra Singh said, he vividly recalls the summer of 1990 which was most harsh for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits who had never seen the summer of plains, as a result of which there were a series of heat stroke cases happening, and as a young medico, he and his colleagues would physically lift heat struck Kashmiri Pandits and place them on ice-slabs. He said, the film "The Kashmir Files" has done a tremendous contribution in bringing out the unspoken side (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## Devices resemble to IED used at Udhampur on Mar 9

## Timers used in twin blasts at Koteranka; cops, crowd were target

**Sanjeev Pargal**

**JAMMU, Mar 27:**

A major plot has unfolded in last night's twin terror strikes in Koteranka near Kandi Police Station and Sub Divisional Headquarters as time devices had been used in both of them to keep 20 minutes difference between the explosions with a view to target police teams and crowd which reached the spot but they had narrow escape.

"The explosive devices resembled to an IED used at Slathia Chowk blast in Udhampur on March 9 in which one civilian was killed and 16 others were injured," investigators told the Excelsior.

They said the blasts were

triggered with time devices and not remote controls. The first explosion occurred at 8.15 pm and the second at 8.35 pm. The difference of 20 minutes had been fixed in second device with a view to target police party and crowd which gathered at the spot after first explosion.

However, the militants' plot failed as police personnel from Kandi Police station who reached the spot were investigating from a distance and had very narrow escape in the second explosion. The crowd was not present at the site as majority of shops had closed by then. Markets in rural

areas generally close between 7.30 pm to 8 pm. Investigators confirmed that both explosive devices used in Koteranka blasts resembled to IED blast triggered by the militants in a vegetable box at rehri at Slathia Chowk in Udhampur town on March 9 in which one civilian was killed and 16 others were wounded.

All three explosive devices--two used at Koteranka and one at Udhampur--had no splinters but sound caused by them was deafening, sources said, adding that nature of all three devices is being ascertained. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## Brother of SPO succumbs, toll in Budgam attack two

**Fayaz Bukhari**

**SRINAGAR, Mar 27:**

Brother of the Special Police Officer (SPO) who was critically injured in a militant attack in Central Kashmir district of Budgam succumbed to injuries here this morning taking the death toll in the last evening militant attack to two while train services in Kashmir were suspended today as large number of people assembled at their residence which is adjacent to Railway track.

Umar Ahmad Dar, 23, a student, who was critically injured at his residence in Chattabugh Budgam, in a militant attack on his brother succumbed to his injuries this morning. His brother, Ishfiq Ahmad Dar, 26, posted as SPO in Budgam, was fired



Hundreds of people attend SPO and his brother's funeral at their native village in Budgam. -Excelsior/Shakeel

upon and critically wounded last evening and later succumbed. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## Central Act made applicable but yet to be implemented J&K UT fails to make 'Gram Nyayalayas' functional despite lapse of two & half yrs

**People remain deprived of accessible justice delivery system**

**Mohinder Verma**

JAMMU, Mar 27: People of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have remained deprived of most accessible justice delivery system as the administration has failed to make 'Gram Nyayalayas' functional even two and half years after the applicability of the Central Act.

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 was enacted by the Parliament for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas or village courts for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas. The Act came into force with effect from October

2, 2009 in whole of the country. However, it became applicable to Jammu and Kashmir following abrogation of Article 370 and as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019.

In the month of June 2020, the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of J&K UT issued notification mentioning that the headquarters identified for the Dehi Adalats shall be deemed to be the headquarters of the Gram Nyayalayas.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the year 2013, the then Government of Jammu and Kashmir made efforts to estab-

lish Dehi Adalats on the pattern of Gram Nyayalayas yet the attempt failed to yield the results even after identification of headquarters of Dehi Adalats due to lack of manpower.

In the month of January 2021, the Chief Justice of Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh constituted a high-level committee comprising Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Puneet Gupta to look into the operationalization and functioning of the Gram Nyayalayas within the jurisdictional limit of the High Court with a view to make the institu-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

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