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## Nath is new VC CUK

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 31: Government of India today appointed Professor A Ravinder Nath, Dean, Faculty of Technology, Osmania University, Hyderabad, as the Vice Chancellor of the Central University, Kashmir.

A communication sent in this regard to the Registrar, Central University of Kashmir, Green Campus, Duderhama, Ganderbal read: "...President in her capacity as the Visitor of Central University of Kashmir has been

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## 2 TRF hybrid militants held

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 31: Police today arrested two hybrid militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba involved in an attack on a YouTuber in Shopian district.

Last year on December 25, militants fired at Waseem, a YouTuber, outside his residence but he escaped unhurt.

In the report lodged at the Police Station Heerpora, he had stated that the militant, in the company of a biker, shot twice at him using a pistol. However, the assailant missed both shots, caus-

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

## 2 SEs promoted, posted in Jal Shakti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: The Government today issued orders of promotion and posting of two Superintending Engineers (SEs) as I/C Chief Engineers in the Jal Shakti Department.

The SEs elevated as I/C CE are -Sanjeev Malhotra and Ghulam Ahmed Hajam. After being placed as I/C Chief Engineer, Sanjeev Malhotra has been posted as Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Kashmir while Ghulam Ahmed Hajam as Director Technical, Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA).

## Govt raises interest on small savings

NEW DELHI, Mar 31:

The Government today raised interest rates on most post office saving schemes by up to 0.7 per cent for the April-June 2023 quarter in line with the firming of interest rates in the economy.

While the interest rates for popular PPF and savings deposits have been retained at 7.1 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, there has been an increase between 0.1 per cent and 0.7 per cent in other saving schemes, a Finance Ministry statement said.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## 11 X-Ens placed as I/C SEs in PW(R&B)

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: The Government today issued order of placement of 11 Incharge Executive Engineers (Civil) as I/C Superintending Engineers (SEs) in the Public Works (R&B) Department.

The Xens elevated to the next higher post are- Kamal Kishore Sharma, Mohd Ashraf Bhat, Mushtaq Ahmed Shah, Firdous Ahmed, Devinder Gupta, Reyaz Ahmed Parry, Bikram Singh, Nissar Ahmed Shah, Subash Chander, Saleem-ul-Saba and Ajay Kapahi.

## Murder case against Karate listed in May

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 31: A court today heard an application for the opening of a criminal trial against Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) leader, Farooq Ahmed Dar alias Bitta Karate in the murder of Kashmiri Pandit businessman Satish Tickoo in 1990, and listed the matter for further hearing on May 4.

Advocate Utsav Bains, of Tickoo's family, said here that they hope that they will get justice from the court.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

## LG chairs 44th Board meeting

# Amarnath yatra may last around 60 days, SASB to announce schedule shortly

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: Annual pilgrimage to Shri Amarnath Ji cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas this year could last around 60 days with tentative date for start of pilgrimage expected to be June 20 or 27. The yatra will conclude on August 30 coinciding with Raksha Bandhan and Shrawan Purnima.

However, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) is yet to announce the dates.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired 44th meeting

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

of the SASB at Raj Bhawan.

An official handout released after the meeting didn't mention date for start of annual pilgrimage and total duration.

However, as per the officials June 20 and June 27 were discussed for start of yatra. As the pilgrimage has to conclude on August 30, the yatra could start on June 27 or a couple of days later depending upon the auspicious day.

## \*Ongoing works, future projects discussed



LG Manoj Sinha chairing 44th meeting of SASB in Jammu on Friday.

cious day.

The pilgrimage is likely to last around 60 days in view of improvement in situation and heavy rush of tourists which could also lead to impressive yatra.

During 2022, the pilgrimage lasted 43 days from June 30 to August 11. Pilgrimage was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID and only 'Chihri Pujan' was performed. In 2019, the yatra was curtailed by about 15 days ahead of August 5 decisions of the Central Government to abrogate special status of erstwhile State

and bifurcate it into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

The SASB will shortly come out with detailed schedule of annual pilgrimage including total duration, date of start and conclusion besides registration and other related issues.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 44th meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) at Raj Bhawan, today.

Members of the Shrine Board - Swami Avdhesanand Giri Ji

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## After meeting Apex Body, LG calls on Home Secy Breakthrough in Ladakh dialogue: LAB gets MHA call to submit agenda afresh

Sanjeev Pargal

**\*Leh, Kargil Reps to meet next week to finalize draft**

JAMMU, Mar 31: In a major breakthrough towards resolving the long standing issues of the Union Territory of Ladakh for which agitation is being spearheaded by Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) collectively, the Union Home Ministry has sought revised proposal from the two bodies following meeting of a senior Ladakh leader with MHA functionary.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brig BD Mishra (Retired) also met Union Home Secretary A K Bhalla in New Delhi while the LAB has called meeting with

KDA leaders shortly to draft the proposal before submission to the Union Home Ministry, official sources told the Excelsior.

Unfolding latest developments in Ladakh, sources said a 30-member delegation of LAB initially met the Lieutenant Governor in Leh and briefed him on a host of issues including four-point agenda of Apex Body and KDA which included Statehood for Ladakh, Constitutional safeguards under Sixth Schedule status, two Parliamentary seats for the UT (one each for Leh and Kargil) and employment opportunities for the

local youth.

They also took up other issues with Mishra.

Later, a senior functionary of LAB was called for a meeting by the MHA top brass in New Delhi in which it was decided that the LAB and KDA will submit a fresh proposal to the Union Home Ministry listing their major issues after which the two bodies, which are agitating for a long time now, will be called for the dialogue.

**"After getting response from the Union Home Minister, we have decided to establish contact**

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## Stress laid on strict compliance to Accounting Standards Several Autonomous Bodies fail to submit accounts for yrs together: CAG

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 31: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has pointed out that several Autonomous Bodies have failed to submit accounts for years together even after receiving substantial funding from the budget, which is nothing less than serious financial irregularity.

In respect of eight Autonomous Bodies which were to render annual accounts to CAG 37 accounts were not rendered for the period ranging between one to 12 years as on March 31, 2022, the supreme audit institution of the country has mentioned in the latest report tabled in the Parliament recently.

These Autonomous Bodies are Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir, Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu, JK Employee Provident Funds Organization, Jammu & Kashmir Housing Board, J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board, J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board and J&K State Legal Services Authority (SLSA).

"CAMPA has submitted the accounts for audit for period up to 2008-09 while as accounts for 12 years are pending. Likewise, SKUAST-Kashmir has not sub-

mitted its accounts for audit for last 11 years", the CAG said, adding "non-submission/delay in submission of accounts by these Autonomous Bodies receiving substantial funding from the budget is a serious financial irregularity persisting for years".

"Despite taking up issue of preparation and submission of accounts with the Government, the accounts are in arrears", the report said, adding "in view of this non-compliance, the audited accounts of these Statutory Bodies have not so far been presented to the Legislature as required under the Statutes under which these Bodies were created. The delay/arrears in finalization of accounts carry the

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## 'In some cases, it will be given on case to case basis'

# FD releases 50 pc Revenue budget, asks COs to ensure further allocations

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: The Finance Department today released 50 percent funds under Revenue budget for the financial year of 2023-24 except under few heads for which the budget will be released on case to case basis.

An order to this effect was issued by the Finance Department today.

The heads under which budget will be released on case to case basis include Leave Travel Concession, Purchase of Vehicles, Furniture & Furnishings, Interest, Purchase of Power, Cost Price of Food Grains, Snow Clearance, Share under Revenue Component and Disaster Response Fund.

The Finance Department has asked the Controlling Officers to ensure further budgetary allocations strictly as per Demand for Grants and funds shall be released through BEAMS.

"The Controlling Officers shall immediately release the funds to the line departments within a period of one week from the date of authorization by the Finance Department. The BEAMS Administrator at Administrative Department level shall report compliance to the Finance Department on monthly basis," the order read.

It directed that all procurement of Goods and Services shall be made through GeM portal while the process of e-tendering, wherever required,

shall be initiated immediately in the month of April and completed by or before 31st May for the year 2023-24.

It added that all Departments/District Development Commissioners shall align their Work Plans based on schemes as per the instructions conveyed yesterday.

"All recommendations of the two conference of the Chief Secretaries shall form part of budget outlay. No diversion shall be made under any pretext unless expressly authorized by the Finance Department," the order said.

It added that the Controlling Officers/DDOs will strictly monitor revenue collection as per fixed

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

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