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## Car damaged in mysterious blast at Boulevard

*Excelsior Correspondent*

SRINAGAR, Apr 2: In a mysterious blast at Boulevard in Srinagar on the banks of Dal lake today, a car was damaged and an elderly couple escaped

**\* Pic on page 4**

**Video on**

**www.excelsiornews.com**

unhurt. Police said a blast took place in the rear of a Honda City vehicle bearing number JK01M 0878 at Boulevard road. An elderly couple Hafizullah Bhat and

*(Contd on page 4 Col 1)*

## Weather improves after 2 days

*Excelsior Correspondent*

SRINAGAR, Apr 2: Weather improved today after two days of intermittent rains in the Valley and snowfall over higher reaches of Kashmir, however, towards the evening there were isolated showers at few places.

Meteorological office has forecasted mainly clear weather with a brief spell of rain or thunderstorm at isolated places in the evening amid chances of 50 to 60 percent.

It said intermittent rain or thunderstorm may also occur at

*(Contd on page 4 Col 3)*

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## Full Election Commission to visit J&K soon to assess ground situation for polls

**Sanjeev Pargal**

**Chances of Assembly elections not very bright**

JAMMU, Apr 2: Full Election Commission headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir in the middle of this month to assess ground situation in the Union Territory though there are no indications for conduct of Assembly elections shortly which are overdue.

Few days back, the CEC while addressing a press conference in New Delhi stated that there is vacuum in Jammu and Kashmir which needs to be filled.

Sources told the Excelsior that the full Election

Commission will be visiting both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir and indications to this effect have already been dropped to all stakeholders for making preparations well in advance for presentation to the Commission.

While detailed schedule hasn't been communicated so far, the visit could last two or three days as the full Commission has to interact with all top officials of the Election Department here, 20 Deputy Commissioners, representatives of all national and regional recognized political parties and other stakeholders.

The visit assumed signifi-

cance as only few days back while announcing schedule for Karnataka Assembly elections at a press conference in New Delhi, CEC Rajiv Kumar had stated that there is vacuum in Jammu and Kashmir which needs to be filled. He also said that ongoing Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls will not affect the election schedule.

The Commission could also review the process for Summary Revision of electoral rolls. As per the Summary Revision schedule announced by the Election Commission of India, final electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir will be

published on May 10, unless the schedule is extended.

"The Commission is likely to take feedback from all 20 Deputy Commissioners, other senior officers of civil and police administration on the situation, take view of the Election Commission officials in the UT, political parties and other organizations," sources said.

It will make public its opinion after visiting the Union Territory, they added.

Sources were, however, of the view that there seems to be no possibility of holding Assembly elections in Jammu

*(Contd on page 4 Col 3)*

*Coordination Centre being set-up to identify area specific gaps*

## J&K to achieve targets set under Sustainable Development Goals by 2030: Economic Survey

**Goal-wise strategies chalked out by administration**

**Mohinder Verma**

JAMMU, Apr 2: Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is marching ahead to achieve the targets set under Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and goal-wise strategies have already been chalked out by the administration in this regard. Moreover, Coordination Centre is being set up to identify area specific gaps in the development.

In the Economic Survey 2022-23 released recently by the J&K Government, it has been claimed that Union Territory is committed to achieve the targets set under Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and

necessary steps in this regard are being taken by the administration.

Measures like Back to Village, Aspirational Development Programme, Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Social Security Schemes, Digitization and Good Governance and building access are helping to cover gaps identified and provide service delivery mechanism to the unreached segments of the society.

Moreover, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Dashboard and Coordination Centre is being established in J&K which will help to evaluate and identify the area specific gaps in the development,

the Economic Survey said, adding districts will be ranked on the performance on SDG District Indicator Framework and in future, budgeting will be based on Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) showing the actual achievement of Key Performance Indicators and identify the gaps which are required to be bridged with the development planning in the concerned area.

"Effective interventions are being developed to address the underperforming targets so that tangible progress can be achieved within the time frame", the Survey said while disclosing

*(Contd on page 4 Col 3)*

## Genome Sequencing Lab still not functional COVID cases start surging in J&K, 52 reported in last 2 days

**Govind Sharma**

JAMMU, Apr 2: With the advent of April month, COVID cases in Jammu and Kashmir have started surging as a total of 52 COVID positive cases have been reported in last 48 hours in the Union Territory. However, it is a matter of relief that there is no death reported due to COVID and admission in hospitals is still negligible.

Official sources told Excelsior that 19 new COVID positive cases were reported today, one from Jammu Division and 18 from Kashmir Province. The lone case of Jammu

Division has been reported from Ramban district while in Kashmir valley, 6 cases were reported from Srinagar district, 4 each from Budgam and Ganderbal, and one each from Baramulla, Kulgam, Kupwara and Bandipora districts.

As per sources, a total of 2053 Covid tests were conducted in the Union Territory in last 24 hours. The number of active COVID cases in the UT as on date is 14,824 in Jammu Division and 124 in Kashmir Province whereas 2 COVID patients recovered today, one each from Jammu and Kashmir Divisions. The number of active cases in Srinagar district is 43,

followed by 31 in Budgam, 19 in Jammu, 18 in Ganderbal, 11 in Pulwama, 7 each in Baramulla and Kulgam districts, 4 in Kupwara, 2 in Reasi and one each in Anantnag, Bandipora, Shopian, Ramban, Kathua and Samba districts.

Sources further disclosed that 33 new COVID positive cases were reported yesterday in the UT, 3 from Jammu Division and 30 from Kashmir valley. They said eight COVID positive patients including a woman and 7 children were reported yesterday from Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh Hospital, Jammu and they were admitted in Maternity

*(Contd on page 4 Col 3)*

## Waqf Board to turn tough against land grabbers in Eidgah Srinagar

**Seeks control of two Univs to Board**

**Avtar Bhat**

JAMMU, Apr 2: Turning tough on land grabbers who have encroached the land of Eidgah at Srinagar, the J&K Waqf Board today declared that it will restore all the land of the Eidgah grabbed by some vested elements and land mafia over the years.

Board Chairperson, Dr Darkshan Andrabi during her visit to Eidgah today to take the stock of situation for holding of

Eid-ul-Fiter prayers there warned that no leniency will be shown to those who have grabbed the Waqf land how influential they may be. Dr Andrabi said that out of 600 kanals of land belonging to Eidgah in Srinagar maximum has been grabbed by the people who have constructed their houses and business establishments there.

Dr Andrabi warned that every inch of Waqf land will be restored and land grabbers will be evicted. She said that a team of Board will visit the area within two days to take stock of the situation and get the encroachments removed fully.

Maintaining that Eidgah is the face of Srinagar city and it is the prime land so nobody will be

allowed to grab it. She said the people who have grabbed the Waqf land should voluntarily vacate their possession before facing lawful action.

Dr Andrabi said during her visit to the Eidgah, she was informed by the youth of the area that its maximum land has been grabbed and before initiating cleanliness and making arrangements for holding Eid prayers in Eidgah, the Board should restore the hundreds Kanals of land of the Waqf grabbed by people over the years.

Dr Andrabi assured the youth that the Board will turn tough against the land grabbers and get entire encroached land restored to Eidgah. She said this year all

*(Contd on page 4 Col 5)*

## CBI may step in on delay in revoking licenses

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Apr 2: The ongoing crackdown on Amritpal Singh's supporters has brought to light a questionable delay in revoking arms licenses granted to his armed guards in Jammu and Kashmir.

It appeared that the fugitive preacher's two personal security officers who have retired from the Army -- Varinder Singh of the 19th Sikh Regiment and Talwinder Singh of the 23rd Armoured Punjab Regiment -- had their arms licences either renewed or freshly issued from districts in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said that despite the Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence) of Punjab writing to the Deputy

*(Contd on page 4 Col 1)*



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