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**PM praises beauty of J&K for Tulip season**  
Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was all praise for Jammu and Kashmir for its beauty, especially for Tulip Garden today after he retweeted a tweet of Srinagar administration regarding the garden.  
Retweeting the tweet, Modi said Jammu and Kashmir in (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

**Rahul gets bail in defamation case**

SURAT, Apr 3: A sessions court in Gujarat's Surat city today granted bail to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi  
\* Pic on page 4  
Video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

after he filed an appeal against his conviction in a criminal (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**40 new COVID cases in J&K**  
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: A total of 40 new COVID positive cases were reported today in Jammu and Kashmir, 21 from Jammu Division and 19 from Kashmir valley.

According to the reports, highest number of 14 cases have been reported from Jammu district, followed by 4 each from (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

**6 AEEs elevated, 11 X-Ens shifted**  
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: The Government today placed six Incharge Assistant Executive Engineers as I/C Executive Engineers and issued orders of transfers and posting of 11 I/C Xens in the Jal Shakti Department.  
Those assigned the charge as I/C Xens are- Aliya Nazir, (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**Heavy rain in J&K, traffic disrupted on NH**  
Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR/ JAMMU, Apr 3: Heavy rain lashed Jammu and Kashmir today with weatherman forecasting fairly widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorm till tomorrow.  
Kashmir was lashed by heavy rains since morning, making (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

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**Plan to plant nuclear bomb in Surat**  
**Court orders framing of charges against IM's Bhatkal, others**

NEW DELHI, Apr 3: The Judge said that the chats by Bhatkal revealed and reflected planning nuclear attack in Surat after evacuating Muslims.  
"A chat between accused reflect IM planning for planting nuclear bomb in Surat town and evacuating Muslims from Surat town before executing such terrorist act... On minute analysis of the chat running into many pages would clearly show that Bhatkal was not only involved with other accused for carrying out earlier terrorist activities but also involved in conspiracy of future terrorist activities with the assistance of Maoist in Nepal to collect arms, ammunition etc.," the court observed.  
The court noted that Bhatkal was not only involved in larger conspiracy but was also instrumental in designing and preparing IEDs (improvised explosive devices).  
It noted that in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy, func- (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## 'No dearth of political will' Officers should act against corrupt, however powerful, without hesitation: PM

NEW DELHI, Apr 3: agencies should not be deterred by stories about the power of the corrupt and their ecosystem to tarnish them.  
"These people will keep distracting you, but you have to focus on your work. No corrupt and constitution are with you," the Prime Minister said.  
"Today there is no dearth of political will to take action against corruption in the country," Modi said and asked officers to take action against the

services on a large scale, even outside geographical boundaries, Modi said that India's economic power is growing while those who create obstacles are also rising.  
He warned that attacks on India's social fabric, its unity and brotherhood, and its economic interests and institutions would also increase.  
"Corruption money will be spent on this," he said as he stressed the need to understand and study the multinational nature of crime and corruption.  
Modi said India got a legacy of corruption at the time of Independence and lamented the fact that instead of removing it, some people kept nourishing this malady.  
He said that while a discussion on trillion dollars refers to a strong economy these days, a decade ago, when the CBI celebrated its golden jubilee, such (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## Audit of more schemes of RDD, other deptts during current FY For first time, Social Audit of all works under MGNREGA in 4291 Panchayats conducted

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 3: For the first time, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has conducted Social Audit of all the works executed under MGNREGA in all 4291 Panchayats in order to ensure transparency and accountability. Moreover, additional schemes of the Rural Development Department and other departments will be brought within the ambit of Social Audit during the current financial year.  
As per the Economic Survey released recently by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta during the financial year 2022-23 the Directorate of Social

## Consignment was sent for terror acts Drone dropped pistols, grenades recovered near Vijaypur

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: Police today recovered arms and explosives dropped by a drone near Rakh Barotiya close to the Railway line near Vijaypur town in Samba district and foiled the terror plot to pick up the consignment and hand it

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

over to the militants for terror strikes.  
DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range Shakti Pathak told Excelsior that the consignment was recovered by police team from isolated area in Rakh Barotiya this morning after getting a tip off.  
The consignment includes three Chinese made pistols, four hand grenades, six magazines and 48 rounds.  
border. The drone seems to have returned after dropping the consignment which was to be picked up by Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of the militants but it was recovered by police before the OGWs could do their job.  
After effecting the recoveries, police launched search operation in the area but no movement was observed. It is suspected that the militant associates became aware that the consignment has fallen into the hands of police and didn't come forward to collect it. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## CAG calls for timely submission of UCs, adjustment of advances on AC bills

JAMMU, Apr 3:

Taking serious note of the delay in filing of Utilisation Certificates (UC) of funds in Jammu and Kashmir, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has called for timely submission of the UCs and necessary steps to ensure adjustment of the advances drawn on the Abstract Contingent (AC) bills within the stipulated period.  
In its report on the Union Territory Finances for the year ended March 31, 2022, the CAG also called for timely preparation and submission of accounts by various autonomous bodies in the Union Territory, highlighting that 37 numbers of accounts were not rendered for the period ranging between one to 12 years.  
"There are 3,859 number of UCs amounting to Rs 11,295.43 crore pertaining to erstwhile State and UT of Jammu and Kashmir outstanding as on 31st March 2022," the report, tabled in the Parliament last week, observed.  
It said while 3,089 UCs for grants paid up to 30 October 2019 amounting to Rs 8,158.32 crore by the erstwhile State and 770 UCs for grants paid by UT of Jammu and Kashmir amounting to Rs 3,137.11 crore were outstanding up to 31 March 2022.  
The CAG said the department-wise breakup of total outstanding UCs shows that 77.73 per cent of total outstanding UCs pertain to four departments, of which 43.13 per cent of outstanding UCs pertain to the Education Department.  
Rural Development Department, Agriculture department and Health and Medical Education Department are others that have failed to submit UCs till the end of the last financial year.  
"Non-submission of the UCs means that the authorities have not explained as to how funds were spent over the years. There is also no assurance that the intended objectives of providing these funds have been achieved," the report said.  
The CAG said this assumes greater importance if such UCs are pending against Grants-in-Aid meant for capital expenditure.  
"It is imperative that the Government should monitor this aspect closely and hold the concerned persons accountable for submission of UCs in a timely manner," it said.  
The CAG said the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has not framed revised rules relating to drawing of Grants-in-aid and submission of UCs thereof but in terms of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir (Pre re-organisation) Financial Code, UCs should be furnished within 18 months from the date of receipt of grant or before applying for a further grant on the same subject whichever is earlier.  
The report said Detailed Counter-signed Contingent (DCC) (Contd on page 4 Col 3)



A panoramic view of Mahu Valley in Ramban district after fresh snowfall. — Excelsior / Shubam Anthal

## Performance based Scheme to last 3 years Power Ministry approves Rs 5200 cr for J&K under RDSS to improve infra Underground cabling also part of proposal

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Apr 3: The Union Power Ministry has sanctioned Rs 5200 crore for the Union Territory under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), almost equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir divisions, to improve power infrastructure to ensure that distribution of power doesn't suffer during summer in Jammu and winter in the Valley.  
Official sources told the Excelsior that the RDSS will be valid for a period of three years and Jammu and Kashmir has been treated as Special Category State by the Union Power Ministry while granting a hefty amount of Rs 5200 crore.  
"The amount will be specifically used for strengthening power infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir including 33KV

and 11 KV stations/HT/LTs and other equipments which form part of infrastructure," official sources told the Excelsior.  
They said laying underground cabling has also been proposed in the RDSS but present focus of the Department is to strengthen existing infrastructure to avoid losses and ensure regular supply to the consumers.  
Strengthening of infrastructure will reduce power losses, they said, adding it has been observed that infrastructure suffers mostly during summer in Jammu and winter in Kashmir when demand for electricity supply is at its peak in the two divisions.  
The RDSS is aimed at strengthening the infrastructure and ensure that electricity supply isn't affected due to poor or obsolete wires, transformers and Stations.  
"The RDSS will be implemented over a period of three years," the sources said, adding that infrastructure which needs to be strengthened in the Union Territory has either been identified or is in the process of identification and work will be taken up accordingly.  
The RDSS, as per the sources, will go a long way in improving infrastructure in the Union Territory.  
As the scheme is "performance based", the funds would be released as the work progresses gradually. However, the funds will not be a problem, they said.  
Sources pointed out that revenue collection has touched Rs 2000 crore during 2022-23 in Jammu region which is up by Rs 300 crore from 2021-22 and Rs 6000 crore more than 2020-21 because of strictness by the officers, series of measures taken to improve revenue (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## BJP's vindictive politics will destroy Indian democracy: Patil

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Apr 3: Senior AICC leader and Incharge J&K and Ladakh affairs of the party, Rajni Patil (MP) today said that BJP's vindictive politics will destroy Indian democracy and hamper the overall growth of the country.  
While addressing large gathering of the party at the Satyagrah protest site here today, the Rajya Sabha MP said that the Congress Party takes strong objection to the "vindictive politics" of the BJP and it was high time to raise a voice against this arrogant Government. She said that the Congress openly questions the BJP on its favouritism with the rich capitalists like 'Adanis' and their relationship with them.  
Patil alleged that BJP is more concerned about the welfare of its capitalist friends than the common man who is suffering occurred in Karnataka. Further, the disqualification came within some time of that, hinting at the vindictive tactics adopted by ruling party.  
"Such politics will hamper India's growth and may prove detrimental to Indian democracy. BJP is favouring the rich capitalists by selling shares of institutions of LIC. Their behaviour is against Indian Constitution. They are trying to silence the opposition for raising the voice of people. BJP leadership is so afraid of the truth that they cannot allow for the truth to be out in the open. This is the reason they are using tactics to defame and oust Congress leaders from the political grounds," she alleged.  
Patil pointed out that there has been deliberate attempt to (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## HC directs for regularization of casual labourers in JKPC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 3: The High Court today directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to take a decision about the absorption of casual labourers working in Jammu and Kashmir Project Construction Corporation (JKPC).  
The Division Bench of Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Sanjay Dhar directed Corporation and its Administrative Department to take a decision regarding absorption of casual labourers engaged by the Corporation including the case of the writ petitioner as well.  
The direction has been passed in an appeal filed by the Corporation questioning the judgment and order dated 20.12.2019, passed by Writ Court filed by one Rabia Kousar seeking regularization of her services with the Corporation. (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

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