

TMTL
Why Compromise? Get the BEST Genset!

EICHER ENGINES
 M/s Shrikul Tractors, Jammu
 9086010903

CHANAKYA IAS ACADEMY
Jammu is announcing its Late Evening Batch for IAS/KAS
 Specially designed for college going/working professionals
 Batch: 20th April 2023
 Timing: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
 For more information: 8715823063

SIA raids 6 locations

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 4: State Investigation Agency (SIA) today raided multiple locations including the residences of two separatists in a militancy funding case.

The raids began this morning in districts of Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara.

The residences of two (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

IAF personnel killed in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Apr 4: An Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel died on spot after the car he was driving went out of control and plunged into several hundred feet deep gorge in Marog area here on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in wee hours of Tuesday.

Police sources said that a Srinagar bound car bearing registration JK18B-3678 went out of control of its driver and (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

2 vehicles attached for arms transportation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 4: The State Investigation Unit of police today attached two vehicles used for transportation of arms and ammunition.

A police spokesman said that continuing its crackdown on militant elements, Special (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

DB upholds Rs 10 lakh compensation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 4: The Division Bench of High Court has upheld the writ court judgment for compensation to the next kin of deceased who died due to electrocution and observed that to challenge the verdict is a sheer wastage of court time and public money by those running the affairs of the UT.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Eid prayers at Eidgah after 4 years

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 4: For the first time after Aug 2019, the historic Eidgah is all set to witness Eid prayers in Srinagar where the authorities have started the process to make elaborate arrangements this year.

Speaking to reporters Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson, Dr (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

Union Bank of India
 VYOM Mobile App
Union Classic Current Account
 Free and unlimited NEFT/RTGS
 Upto 10 DDs free per month
 Upto 15 times of AMB Free Cash Deposit per month
Good people to bank with

Sanctioned strength of IAS in J&K to go up to 165 soon to overcome shortage

UT Admn completes formalities, MHA to take call soon

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Apr 4: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will shortly have sanctioned strength of IAS officers raised to 165 from present 145 as a proposal to this effect has been approved by the Government and sent to the Union Home Ministry for clearance.

"This will help Jammu and Kashmir overcome shortage of IAS officers to quite an extent as presently a number of IAS officers have been posted here from other States/Union Territories on inter-State deputation for a period ranging between two to five years," official sources told the Excelsior.

They said the exercise to this effect has been completed on part of Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Union Home Ministry will now shortly take a call to this effect.

Posts at almost all levels have been increased to take the strength to 165, they added.

"Increase in sanctioned

strength of IAS was necessitated as Jammu and Kashmir was facing shortage of officers at various levels prompting the Union Home Ministry and Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to deploy many officers from other States and UT to J&K on deputation basis to meet the shortage," sources said, adding that once J&K gets full quota of its sanctioned strength it won't require deputation of the officers.

Sanctioned strength at the level of Financial Commissioners, Principal Secretaries, Commissioner/Secretaries, Secretaries etc will go up once the proposal to raise the strength is cleared, sources said.

They added that services of all officers, who are on deputation to the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh are being regularly monitored by the MHA as well as DoPT.

Besides officers from AGMUT cadre, of which Jammu and Kashmir is now part, a number of IAS, IPS and

other AIS officers from different States/UTs are presently on deputation not only to Jammu and Kashmir but also Ladakh.

In view of shortage of officers, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had invited requisitions from the AIS officers for posting in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

A number of officers including natives of the two Union Territories, who were posted in other States and UTs, had responded to the requisition and opted for the postings here.

"Both the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are short of IAS and IPS officers due to different reasons. Ladakh is being fed by Jammu and Kashmir not only in terms of IAS and IPS officers but also JKAS and JKPS etc as it was part of J&K till the erstwhile State was bifurcated into two Union Territories after abrogation of its special status on August 5, 2019.

"The deployments of officers on deputation to the two (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Early elections in J&K important, no pre-poll alliance: Azad

NEW DELHI, Apr 4:

Former Chief Minister and veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad has favoured early polls in Jammu and Kashmir saying the exercise is "very much" important not only for democracy but also for resolving issues of the common people of the region.

He also rejected that his newly-created political party will have a pre-poll alliance before polls are held in the Union Territory.

"We are very keen, rather we are getting very late because we have almost completed nine years - after two or three months we will be entering the 10th year after the elections.

"Elections are very much important for not only democra-

cy but also for issues which the people of the erstwhile State are confronted with," he said in an interview.

He said while restoration of Statehood is an important thing



When the Prime Minister called the All-Party Meeting, there the Home Minister also repeated commitment of restoration of Statehood but made it clear that it would be done after the elections are held.

Azad, who has been campaigning in Jammu and Kashmir, ruled out any tie ups before the elections. "I don't think I would have any tie up (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**Penalty of Rs 12.60 cr not imposed on defaulting IPPs
 Failure to evacuate power from Ladakh project led to loss of Rs 16.45 cr: CAG**

Proposals not submitted to MNRE for availing incentives

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 4: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has detected that failure on the part of Jammu and Kashmir Development Corporation (JKPDC) to evacuate power from hydro-electric project in Ladakh led to revenue loss of Rs 16.45 crore. Moreover, the Corporation failed to impose penalty on defaulting Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to the tune of Rs 12.60 crore even after explicit provision in this regard in the Hydro Policy.

In order to ensure smooth

transmission of power from a generating plant to the grid for further transmission/distribution, installation of power evacuation system is required before commissioning of project.

The construction of two hydro-electric projects of generation capacity of nine Mega Watt each at Dah and Hanu in Leh district was awarded in September 2012 to the contractor firm by JKPDC on EPC turnkey basis at a cost of Rs 217.56 crore. An expenditure of Rs 127.70 crore was incurred on execution of the projects after availing loan of Rs 111.50 crore from Rural Electrification Corporation and financial assis-

tance of Rs 16.20 crore from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.

The Dah project was commissioned in September 2019 with time overrun of 36 months and Hanu project was under trial run with progress of various components ranging between 87 per cent and 96 per cent in July 2021.

However, during audit it came to the fore that for power evacuation from these projects, construction of Dah-Hanu-Khalsti 66 KV D/C Transmission Line was approved by Board of Directors (Contd on page 11 Col 1)

Theft in court seizure room; heroin, charas worth crores stolen

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Apr 4: In a bizarre incident, seized contraband substance and drugs including 4 kg heroin, about 1.5 kg charas, huge quantity of drugs/capsules and fake currency has been stolen from high security seizure room (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Trump in police custody

NEW YORK, Apr 4:

Former US President Donald Trump is in police custody at the Manhattan district attorney's office today ahead of his arraignment on history-making criminal charges related to paying hush money to a porn star before the 2016 Presidential election in exchange for her silence.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Gujarat police reaches J&K to take Patel's custody

AHMEDABAD, Apr 4:

A team of Ahmedabad Police has reached Jammu and Kashmir to take custody of alleged conman Kiran Patel in a cheating case and is expected to bring him to Gujarat on Thursday evening, an official (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

India rejects China renaming places in AP

NEW DELHI, Apr 4:

India today outrightly rejected China renaming some places in Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the State is an integral part of India and assigning "invented" names does not alter this reality.

India's reaction came in response to Beijing announcing Chinese names for 11 more places in Arunachal Pradesh which the neighbouring country claims as southern part Tibet.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Ladakh Admn hikes DA

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 4: The Union Territory administration of Ladakh today ordered payment of four percent Dearness Allowance to the employees working in the UT. The DA has been hiked from 38 percent to 42 percent with effect from January 1, 2023.

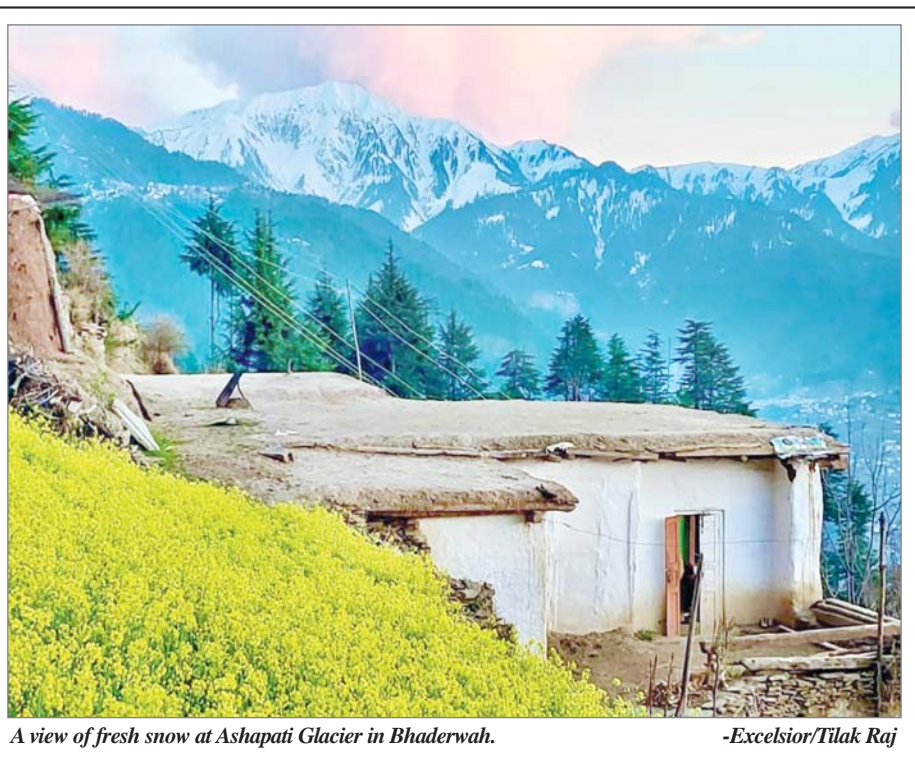
31 test +ve for COVID in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 4: Thirty-one cases of COVID-19 were reported from Jammu and Kashmir today, taking the number of active cases to 156.

Among 31 new cases, 29 have been reported from Kashmir division and two from Jammu region.

An official said that total number of positive cases in Kashmir have reached to 305,679 including 303,125 recoveries and 2,433 deaths while total number of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 174,152 including 171,764 recoveries and (Contd on page 4 Col 5)



A view of fresh snow on Ashapati Glacier in Bhaderwah.

-Excelsior/Tilak Raj

Centre frames Rs 3500 cr worth Industrial Devp Scheme for Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

Ladakh on the lines of Jammu and Kashmir.

JAMMU, Apr 4: With a view to boost industrial development in Ladakh, the Central Government has framed an 'Industrial Development Scheme' for the Union Territory with a total financial outlay of Rs 3500 crore.

The Scheme is likely to be unveiled shortly, official sources told the Excelsior.

The Industrial Development Scheme has been finalized by the Union Ministry of Commerce on the pattern of a scheme unveiled by it for Jammu & Kashmir in 2021 with a total financial outlay of Rs 28400 crore, the sources said.

"The Cabinet note for the scheme is yet to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)," the sources said, adding the Scheme will be operational once it gets the Cabinet nod.

The Scheme will give a major boost to industrial development in the Union Territory of (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

stated.

The Centre is taking steps to make the scheme functional at the earliest.

"The Scheme is yet to be launched and is awaiting approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)," sources said.

The Scheme will be swiftly implemented as and when approved by CCEA," the sources said.

The Union Commerce Ministry is pursuing the matter with CCEA to revise the budgetary allocation, if required, based on the approval status of the scheme Ladakh has its own Industrial Development Scheme as well.

The Central Government is taking the administration in the Union Territory of Ladakh into confidence while finalizing the Industrial Development Scheme.

The Industrial Development Scheme, as per the sources, will generate large number of job opportunities for the local people of Ladakh.

Pak making repeated attempts to smuggle weapons, narcotics: ADGP

'Conspiracies hatched across border will be foiled'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 4: A day after the recovery of a cache of arms near the International Border in Samba district, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu (Contd on page 4 Col 5)



by a Pakistani drone near Vijaypur in Samba district.

"I want to assure all that all the conspiracies hatched across the border will be foiled," Singh said, adding the shortcomings, if any, will be addressed to make the borders fully secure.

Responding to a question about the possibility of militants trying to sneak into this side from Pakistan, he said there have been many infiltration attempts in the past couple of years and all such attempts were foiled.

"Our attempt is to foil their plans (to push militants) and we are doing our job," he said.

Singh was in Samba district to preside over a police-public meet as part of the efforts to reach out to the public and listen to their problems.

"The people raised many issues of concern like drug traf-

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**Rains lash Kashmir, snowfall in hills
 Authorities rescue 53 vehicles from snow on Gurez road**

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Apr 4: Kashmir valley was lashed by heavy rains since last night and hills had fresh snowfall making people shiver.

There were heavy intermittent rains at most places of (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Kashmir and light snowfall in the hills.

The snowfall has led to accumulation of snow on Bandipora-Gurez road. Authorities today rescued 53 vehicles, along with their drivers and passengers, who were trapped in the snow at Razdan Top on the Bandipora-Gurez road.



Machil, the border town in Kupwara district, receives fresh snowfall on Tuesday. (UNI)

An official said that the rescue operation was carried out this morning following information about the stranded vehicles in adverse weather conditions. He said that the police per-

sonnel immediately swung into action and braved the challenging weather conditions to rescue the stranded vehicles and their passengers, taking them to a (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Several administrative posts lying vacant in Health Deptt for months together

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Apr 4: A number of key administrative posts have been lying vacant in Health Department of Jammu and Kashmir for last many months causing inconvenience to the employees as well as patients and adversely affecting the functioning of the Department, both at the administrative level as well as on the delivery front but the Government seems to be in no mood to fill the same.

Official sources told Excelsior that the post of Director Health Services Jammu is lying vacant for last around 2 years while the post of Director Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization has fallen vacant on March 31, 2023 after the retirement of Dr Saleem-Ur-Rehman, who was also holding the additional charge of Director Health Services Jammu.

Health Services (Schemes), Jammu, has been lying vacant for the last over one year after the retirement of Dr KC Dogra while the post of Assistant Director, Rehbar-e-Schat (Jammu), is lying vacant for the last over eight-nine months after the retirement of Dr Deepak Kapoor, post of State Venerologist Jammu is vacant for the last one year after the retirement of Dr Neeta Singh and the post of State Malariologist is vacant for last 8-9 months after superannuation of Dr Rita Kotwal.

Sources further disclosed that there is no Block Medical Officer in place in Rannagar, Chhatroo (Kishtwar) and Nowshera while the posts of (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

HEXAMED
 DIAGNOSTICS & SPECIALTY CLINICS
 Your Right to Right Healthcare...
 Laboratory | Radiology | Polyclinics



NOW OPEN