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Govt to set up 16th FC

NEW DELHI, Apr 9: The Government is likely to set up the 16th Finance Commission this year to suggest, among other things, the ratio in which tax is to be divided between the Centre and States for five years, beginning April 1, 2026, an official said.

The Members of the commission and its Terms of Reference (ToR) are being worked out, the official added.

Finance Commission is a Constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-State

Night temp below normal in Valley

SRINAGAR, Apr 9: Barring Gulmarg and Kokernag the night temperature remains below normal in Kashmir valley even as the Meteorological office predicts dry weather in J&K during the next 24 hours.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 5.1 degree Celsius today against 4.7 degree Celsius the previous night. It was, however, 1.8 degree Celsius below normal during this period of the season. The maximum temperature was recorded at 23.7

64 test positive for COVID in J&K

JAMMU, Apr 9: A total of 64 new COVID-19 positive cases were reported today in Jammu and Kashmir, 24 from Jammu division and 40 from Kashmir region.

According to the reports, highest number of 19 cases were reported from Jammu district, followed by 8 from Pulwama, 7 from Srinagar, 6 each from Kulgam and Budgam, 4 each from Ganderbal and Anantnag, 3 cases from Bandipora and 2 from Baramulla while 1 case

Kapahi gets highest votes in Amar Singh Club polls

JAMMU, Apr 9: Anil Kapahi, Secretary Amar Singh Club, polled highest votes in the Amar Singh Club Executive Committee elections, result of which was declared today.

The elections for the 11 Executive Committee members of the Club were held today at Amar Singh Club with former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Jammu, Prof

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WEATHER
JAMMU: Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 32.5 Degree C
Min: 17.4 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 64.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 50.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 06.57 p.m.
Sunrise on Tuesday: 06.08 a.m.
SRINAGAR: Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 23.7 Degree C
Min: 5.1 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 56.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 18.0 per cent
LEH: TEMPERATURE
Max: 12.4 Degree C
Min: -3.0 Degree C

One killed, two captured alive by Army in Poonch Narco-terror module operatives from PoJK trapped on LoC through CCTVs

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, Apr 9: In a major success, Army gunned down an infiltrator and captured alive two others in an injured condition, who hailed from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) and were part of narco-terror module being run from Pakistan, along the Line of Control (LoC) in Shahpur sector of Poonch district late last night.

A large quantity of narcotics, Pakistani currency and documents were recovered from the possession of slain and captured Pakistanis. The CCTVs installed at sensitive areas on the LoC to track movement of infiltrators helped in elimination and arrest of the intruders, official sources told the Excelsior.

Officials identified the slain intruder as Mohammad Sharief Kohli, 42, son of Mohammad Akbar Kohli and those captured as Mohammad Shakeel, 32, son of Mohammad Sadiq and Tariq Kohli, 25, son of Mohammad Yousuf Kohli, all residents of

Proceeds from drugs being used to fund terrorism



An intruder captured by troops on LoC in Poonch being taken to hospital on Sunday. Another pic on page 4.

Maidaan Mohalla at village Shanjal in PoJK.

"Slain and captured infiltrators were part of narco-terror module being run from Pakistan and their elimination and arrests have thwarted major plot to pump drugs into Jammu and Kashmir and use their proceeds for terrorism," the sources said.

Pakistan army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have been using terror operatives for twin purposes these days including smug-

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

gling of arms, explosives and ammunition and narcotics. The proceeds generated from narcotics are being used for fanning terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir especially the Valley, sources said.

However, most of such plots are being effectively thwarted by security forces and police with arrest or elimination of narco-terror operatives. The Over Ground Workers (OGWs) on this side of the LoC are facilitating further



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Bandipur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves in Karnataka on Sunday. (UNI)

'UT now marching ahead in development' PM ended all kind of discrimination with J&K 3 years back: LG

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended all kind of discrimination with Jammu and Kashmir three years back, it is now marching ahead in all sectors including development.

Sinha was addressing the Bhagwan Mahavir Janm Kalyanak, organized by Shree Mahavir Jain Education Society under the aegis of SS Jain Sabha here today.



LG Manoj Sinha addressing Bhagwan Mahavir Janm Kalyanak at Jammu on Sunday.

Kashmir, Sinha said work on about one lakh crore worth National Highways and tunnels is going on in the Union Territory.

"This will ensure economic development of the Union Territory," he said.

Sinha urged the young generation to follow the teachings of Mahavir and lead by the ideals espoused by him to shape India's future.

He said Mahavir's teachings of 'Ahimsa', 'Anekantwad' and 'Aparigrah' have contributed immensely to the composite culture and his vision is more relevant today than ever before.

"Do not wait for something to happen, rather make proactive efforts to fulfil yours and the nation's aspirations. We must work together to create an ideal condition in society that will enable every individual to live up to her or his full potential," he said.

Sinha also called upon every section of the society to take inspiration from the life and teachings of Mahavir and dedicate their lives for the welfare of the downtrodden and the rapid development of J&K.

"The teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir are aimed at ending all kinds of discrimination, nurturing individual growth and creating social equity. He always emphasised on strong resolve, auspicious thinking and the courage to walk alone on the

IMS, Katra Expressway, Jmu-Sgr NH review on Apr 11 Gadkari, MPs to inspect Zojila tunnel today; assess work on NHs, major roads in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Apr 9: Union Minister of Road, Transport and National Highways Nitin Gadkari along with the Members of Parliament (MPs) will tomorrow visit Zojila tunnel on Srinagar-Leh National Highway to inspect work on the tunnel which is expected to be completed by 2026 to connect Ladakh with rest of the country by road for entire year.

Gadkari will also address the MPs, who are part of Parliamentary Consultative Committee of MORTH at Sonamarg tomorrow, official sources told the Excelsior.

The Union Minister will

review progress of work on National Highways and Roads in the Union Territory of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir at the high-level meeting tomorrow in Srinagar.

He will brief the Parliamentary Consultative Committee members on number of works of MORTH including National Highways and major roads going on in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

On April 11, Gadkari accompanied by Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh will visit Banihal-Ramban stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and inspect

progress of the work.

They will also inspect the site for construction of Inter-Modal Station (IMS) at holy town of Katra in Reasi district and Katra-Delhi Expressway in the afternoon.

Gadkari will return to New Delhi in the afternoon of April 11.

An MoU for construction of IMS at Katra was signed between National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and Katra Development Authority (KDA) on August 30, 2022 in New Delhi in presence of Gadkari, MoS VK Singh and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The IMS will have Bus

Stand, Railway Station, helipad and other related facilities at one place. Traffic from under-construction Delhi-Amritsar-Jammu-Katra Expressway will also land at the IMS.

The IMS is being developed in Katra to improve travelling experience of pilgrims who are visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

The IMS will come up at 25 acres land where entire transport coming to Katra from New Delhi-Amritsar-Jammu-Katra Expressway will land. It will have enough capacity to accommodate the vehicles and ensure smooth entry and exit. It will have space for all kind of trans-

Any default will lead to withholding of funds Govt directs Corporations, Authorities to start holding Board meetings immediately

Mohinder Verma
JAMMU, Apr 9: Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has directed all the Corporations and Authorities to start holding Board meetings immediately so as to chalk out strategies for financial year 2023-24 with the warning that any default in this regard will lead to withholding of funds.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Boards of Directors of several Corporations and Authorities under the administrative control of several Government departments don't hold regular meetings although they are supposed

Make directives of PM, HM, LG part of deliverables

to meet once in a quarter to discuss the bottlenecks in the functioning of the Corporations and Authorities and take decision on important matters.

This has repeatedly been pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in its numerous reports including the one tabled in the Parliament recently. The supreme audit institution of the country has even reported that non-holding of timely Board meetings leads to non-finalization of the accounts of the Corporations and Authorities for

years together, which is nothing less than grave financial irregularity.

Few days back, the issue came up for hearing in a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and after detailed discussion the Chief Secretary directed all the departments to ensure that the Board meetings of the Corporations and Authorities start in the first quarter itself. He has also made it clear that any default in this regard may lead to

'No innocent is punished, no guilty is spared' Determining fake, false news, misrepresentation need lot of deliberations: Rijju

Fayaz Bukhari
SRINAGAR, Apr 9: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju today said amendments to the rules for determining fake and false news and misrepresentation need a lot of deliberations before being enforced.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating the Legal Aid office at Budgam, Rijju said that the definition of fake news, false news and misrepresentation are all important things which require a lot of deliberations.

"We are looking towards making certain amendments in the entire election process. I cannot give any commitment because it is a consultation process which is going on. So



Union Law & Justice Minister Kiren Rijju inaugurating LADC facility at Budgam court complex on Sunday.

the definition of fake news, false news and misrepresentation ... these are all important things which require a lot of deliberations. We are doing it."

On National Conference (NC) president Ferooz Abdullah's call for unity in the Opposition camp for taking on

election timings.

"I cannot clear the dates here. As I am the Law and Justice Minister, I am the Administrative Minister of the Election Commission. So, I cannot make an announcement here. The election will be announced in due course," he added.

Asked about allegations levelled by People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter, Iltija Mufti, regarding her passport, the Minister said "a passport is issued by the Home Ministry".

The Minister in presence of Chief Justice of High Court, Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive

'No parallel can be drawn between Nai Basti and Joshimath disasters' Weakening of micaceous rock due to percolation of water caused landslides in Doda: Expert

Bivek Mathur
JAMMU, Apr 9: A team of experts from the University of Jammu has claimed that weakening of a micaceous (mica) rock due to continuous percolation of water from a lone exposed space has resulted into land movement in Nai Basti Village of Doda District.

Pertinently, 19 families had to be shifted to safer locations in Doda District earlier in March, this year, after houses in Nai Basti Village, some 35 kilometres from Doda Town along the Kishwar-Batote National Highway, developed cracks. The village also witnessed landslides, which caused panic

among the villagers.

Soon after the situation exacerbated with certain media reports likening the situation in the Doda Village with Joshimath tragedy in Uttarakhand, a team of experts from Jammu University comprising Prof GM Bhat, a retired faculty member of Department of Geology, Prof Yudvir Singh Charak, Prof SK Pandita, accompanied by sedimentologists and research scholars visited the affected village and studied various aspects of the natural disaster including the drainage system and gradually increasing anthropogenic activity in the village, there was no channel for the water to drain away naturally in the built up area.

"But there is around 150 feet exposed space in the village where water from the built up area and the natural water from a road above the village used to get accumulated. This continuous accumulation of water for years together

natural factors responsible for such movements of lands.

One of the experts, Prof Yudvir Singh, explained: "Nai Basti Village is located on a hill slope and due to lack of proper drainage system and gradually increasing anthropogenic activity in the village, there was no channel for the water to drain away naturally in the built up area."

"But there is around 150 feet exposed space in the village where water from the built up area and the natural water from a road above the village used to get accumulated. This continuous accumulation of water for years together

Visitors awestruck by beauty of wide tulip range Tulip Garden sees arrival of nearly 2.5 lakh tourists in last 18 days

Irfan Trambo
SRINAGAR, Apr 9: Asia's largest Tulip Garden, located in the lap of Zabarwan hills overlooking Dal lake, has seen about 2.5 lakh tourists arrive in the previous 18 days, leaving the tourists that flock to the garden intoxicated with the dazzling beauty of the garden's diverse diversity of tulips.

Officials told Excelsior that the garden's astounding beauty, which includes several new tulip types, has drawn tourists not only from throughout the country but also from outside.

"According to the numbers we have, we have had 2 lakh, 49 thousand tourists visit the garden in the last 18 months since it was

opened to the public, and there is hope that the number will increase by the time the tulips lose their bloom due to the change in weather and the garden is closed to visitors," In-charge of the Tulip Garden, Dr Inam Ahmad, told Excelsior.

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

According to officials of the Floriculture Department, the garden is seeing record-breaking visitor numbers this year, which they said is the first time since it opened. "Over 2 lakh tourists visited the garden in 16 days, but over 50,000 more people reached in just two days; the venue is predicted to be busy in the days ahead as well."

Those in charge of the garden said they expected greater foot traffic as a result of the years of promotion that had gone into it, highlighting in particular PM Narendra Modi's recent mention of the Tulip Garden.

"We were expecting a rush this year because a lot of advertising and promotion had gone into it over the previous several years; eventually, such strategies bear fruit, and all of it is in front of you. More importantly, the Prime Minister acknowledged it in tweets, which must have encouraged more people to travel to Kashmir and visit the Tulip Gardens. It is now popular all