

TMTL
Why Compromise? Get the BEST Genset!

EASIER FINANCE AVAILABLE
EICHER ENGINES
M/s Shrikul Tractors, Jammu
9086010903

CHANAKYA IAS ACADEMY
Jammu is announcing its new batches for
IAS/KAS 2023/2024
Batch: 20th April & 20th May 2023
Batch for College going/working Professionals available
REGISTRATION OPEN NOW
For more information.
8715823063/70518 93104

SC seeks J&K's response on minorities

NEW DELHI, Apr 10: The Supreme Court today gave the States of Rajasthan and Telangana and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir six weeks to submit their responses on the issue of identification of minorities at the State level, after the Centre pleaded for giving them a "last opportunity".

Additional Solicitor General (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Goyal nominated as chairman JKLF

JAMMU, Apr 10: The Government today nominated Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, as Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC).

"In exercise of powers vested in the Government of Jammu and Kashmir under Section 15(1) of the State Finance Corporation Act, 1951, Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, is hereby appointed as Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC)."

Amritpal's aide Papalpreet held

CHANDIGARH, Apr 10: Radical preacher Amritpal Singh's close aide Papalpreet Singh was nabbed in Amritsar district and detained under the National Security Act, police said today.

Addressing the media here, Punjab Police Inspector General (Headquarters) Sukhchain Singh Gill said, "He (Papalpreet) is the main associate of Amritpal Singh. He has been arrested from Kathunangal area in Amritsar."

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

4 DySPs promoted

JAMMU, Apr 10: The Government today placed four Deputy Superintendents of Police (Selection Grade) as Incharge Superintendents of Police (SPs) in their own pay and grade.

As per an order, the police officers who have been placed as SPs are Sajad Ahmad Sheikh, Vishal Manhas, Vinod Kumar, and Ajay Sharma.

The order further said that the arrangement of the officers is (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

2 Traffic cops suspended for accepting bribe

JAMMU, Apr 10: Hitting out hard at former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti, BJP national general secretary, Tarun Chugh, who is also party incharge of J&K, today asked her that instead of looking through China and Pakistan spectacles, she must use Indian spectacles to see that how much development has been done in J&K by the Narendra Modi Government.

Police sources said that a (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

RAMBAN, Apr 10: Two Traffic Police personnel including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) were suspended and a departmental enquiry was initiated against them after a video went viral on social media showing them allegedly taking bribe from a driver at Trishul Morh, Ramban on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Police sources said that a (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Union Bank of India
Fixed Deposit @ 8.05% p.a.
for 800 days
Good people to bank with
www.unionbankofindia.co.in

50 new Corona cases in J&K

JAMMU, Apr 10: A total of 50 new COVID-19 positive cases were reported today in Jammu and Kashmir, 32 from Jammu Division and 18 from Kashmir Division.

According to the reports, highest number of 20 cases were reported from Jammu district, followed by 9 from Pulwama, 7 from Samba, 6 from Srinagar, 2 each from Doda, Reasi and Kupwara, and 1 each from Poonch and Baramulla districts. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Delhi-Katra Green Field Expressway to be completed by 2023

J&K roads to be made equivalent to US roads in 3-4 yrs: Gadkari

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Apr 10: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari today announced that in the next 3-4 years, the roads of Jammu and Kashmir will be made equivalent to American roads.

Gadkari told a news conference here in Srinagar this evening that the mission will take 3-4

years. "We are working on such a mission that in the coming three-four years we will make the Jammu and Kashmir road network equivalent to that of America," he said.

The Union Minister said that a four-lane Greenfield Expressway, connecting Delhi-Katra, will also

*Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

be made, which will reduce the distance between the two cities by 58 kilometers.

"A total of 32 Green Express Highways are being built, the most important of which is Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Greenfield. This

"Presently the distance from Delhi to Katra is 727 kms, this expressway will reduce the distance by 58 kms. With this, there is a possibility that the distance between Delhi-Amritsar, Delhi-Katra, and Delhi-Srinagar will



Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Zojila Tunnel to inspect the ongoing work on Monday. (UNI)

Tunnels for Amarnath yatra track, Pir Ki Gali announced

In an announcement focusing pilgrimage tourism, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced plans for construction of a tunnel between Sheshnag and Panjtarni on the Amarnath yatra route which, he claimed, will reduce the yatra time from the current three days to just nine hours.

"A 110 kilometre road from Khanabal to Panjtarni will be constructed for the ease of Amarnath yatra at a cost of Rs 5,300 crore. The DPR for 73 km stretch from Khanabal to Chandanwari will be done in July 2023.

"The DPR for 37 km stretch from Chandanwari to Baltal via Panjtarni at a cost of Rs 3,500 will be done in October this year. A 10.8 kilometre-long tunnel will be constructed between Sheshnag and Panjtarni," the Minister said. (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

670 km four-lane Green Field Expressway from Delhi to Vaishno Devi Dham, Katra will be completed by December 2023 at a cost of Rs 37,524 crores," Gadkari said.

"We have also taken up a work of a 78 Kms four-lane Srinagar (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Azad demonstrates loyalty to Modi: Cong

NEW DELHI, Apr 10: The Congress today hit out at its former leader Ghulam Nabi Azad for his reported remarks that Rahul Gandhi allegedly has ties with "undesirable businessmen", saying these "contemptible statements" on the party leadership reflect his desperation to remain relevant.

In an interview with Malayalam News channel Asianet News, Azad, referring to the Gandhi family, said, "The entire family has associations with businessmen, including him (Rahul). I can give you 10 examples of where he would go even outside the country, to meet people who are undesirable businessmen."

Hitting back at Azad, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "With every passing (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Agriculture Minister reaches Leh on 3-day tour

LG calls for corruption-free Ladakh, development in last house of last village

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 10: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brigadier (Retired) BD Mishra has said that "corruption free" Ladakh is his goal as he is of the view that when these two things will end, development will reach to last house in last village.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function in Leh.

"I'm happy to be in Ladakh. Corruption free Ladakh is my target. When corruption and delay in execution of works end, development will happen," Mishra said, adding development has no meaning till it reaches last house in last village.



Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister N S Tomar with LG Ladakh Brig (Retd) B D Mishra in Leh on Monday.

Replying to a question on involvement of civil society in making Ladakh corruption-free, the Lieutenant Governor said he can't do this alone but will make a team of those who are known for honesty.

After taking over as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

'Oppn should tender apology to people'

Mehbooba speaking language of Pak, China: Chugh

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Apr 10: Hitting out hard at former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti, BJP national general secretary, Tarun Chugh, who is also party incharge of J&K, today asked her that instead of looking through China and Pakistan spectacles, she must use Indian spectacles to see that how much development has been done in J&K by the Narendra Modi Government.

Launching a scathing attack on Mehbooba Mufti while talking to a news channel, he accused her of "dancing to the tune of foreign forces like Pakistan and China".

Chugh said it is time that Mehbooba should look at various development works that have been executed during Modi's term as Prime Minister in J&K.

Accusing the Kashmiri centric parties of pushing youth of J&K to terrorism with their anti people and wrong policies over the years, Chugh said Modi Government changed the discourse and replaced terrorism with tourism.

He said J&K has entered a new era where tourism is more important than terrorism now. The youth of the J&K have new dreams in their eyes and they want to com-

pete with the youth of other parts of the country. The J&K is fast moving forward in every sphere of life and the tourism which is the main industry of the UT on which its economy is most dependent is thriving fast and J&K is today one of the best tourism destination of the country, he added.

The BJP national general secretary also took the opposition parties to task for disrupting Parliament session and said that they have wasted a lot of time of Parliament and they continue to do the same. He said the agenda of the country is development, progress and prosperity of people but opposition parties are trying to create impediments in the same. They (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

After probe, Home Deptt demotes Retd DySP for aiding violations at LCMA

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Apr 10: After an investigation revealed that there were Building Plan and Master Plan violations during his time with the erstwhile Lakes & Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA), the J&K Government today ordered the demotion of a retired officer from the date he was appointed as in-charge Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), (LCMA).

The officer, who has now retired, as per the inquiry report, has been found to be involved in the violations, prompting the Home Department to take neces-

sary action in this regard. The order issued by the Home Department stated that Shah Sikander, was arrested on 14-03-2017 and remained in Police custody for more than 48 hours and was placed under suspension from the date of his arrest in the case FIR 53/2015.

As per details, under the Memorandum bearing No Home/PB-1/44/2015/2549 dated 21.06.2017, the Article of Charges was served upon Shah Sikander, the then I/c DySP (now retired), for submitting a written statement of defence within 21 days

The charges include: "During the posting of Shah Sikander Khan as Enforcement Officer in LAWDA from 03.02.2014 to 01.05.2015, various illegal constructions have been raised with-

3 ARTO employees held in bribery case

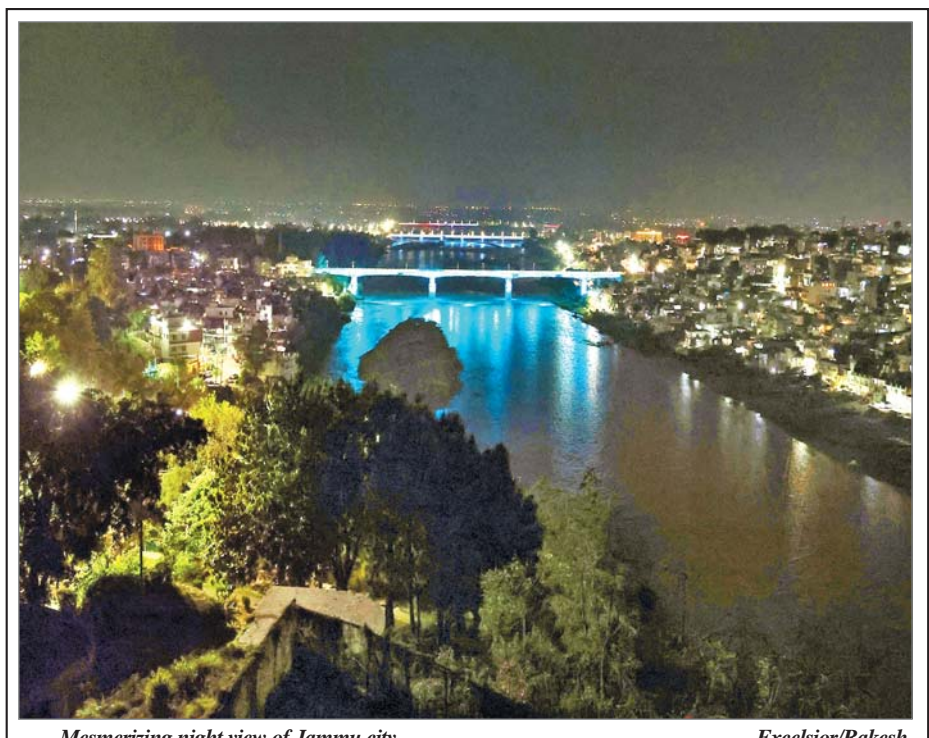
Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 10: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today arrested three employees at the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) in Sopore in Baramulla district for accepting bribe.

An official said that three employees at ARTO Sopore (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

were arrested for taking bribe from the public visiting the office for obtaining Driving License, NOC and Registration of vehicles.

There were a number of complaints pouring in from the public against these employees in connivance with various touts they were indulging in corrupt practices. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)



Mesmerizing night view of Jammu city. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Intl delegates to stay in Sgr for 4 days, WG meet on May 23

Specialized Forces, anti-drone technology part of high security measures for G20 meeting

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Apr 10: Specialized Forces and anti-drone technology from New Delhi and deployment of additional paramilitary forces from within the Union Territory to Srinagar, Gulmarg and some other places, securing areas inhabited by the minorities and non-locals and regular search operations in sensitive areas are among the series of measures discussed by a Central team with top police and Intelligence officials of Jammu and Kashmir for G20 meeting in Srinagar from May 22-25, the first major international event post abrogation of special status of erstwhile State.

Official sources told the Excelsior that Jammu and Kashmir is bracing up for maximum participation of delegates in G20 meeting on Working Group of Tourism scheduled to be held in Srinagar on May 23. Delegates from almost all countries except one are scheduled to attend the meeting in Srinagar, they said.

As per the details available with the Excelsior, the G20 delegates on Working Group on Tourism will reach Srinagar on May 22 and will be accorded (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

*Dal, Dachigam Park, Gulmarg places of sightseeing

warm welcome. Meeting of the Group will be held on May 23. The delegates will be taken to major tourist places for sightseeing on May 24 in Srinagar including Dal lake where they will go for Shikara ride, Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary and some other significant places followed by Gulmarg. They will return to New Delhi on May 25.

Police and Intelligence officials from Jammu and Kashmir had detailed discussions with a Central team on making security and other arrangements for G20 delegates in the Union Territory especially the Valley where the meeting is scheduled to be held.

"Specialized Force and anti-drone technology from New Delhi will be deployed in Srinagar and tourist places where G20 delegates will visit. Additional paramilitary forces from within the Union Territory will also be relocated and deployed in Srinagar, Gulmarg and other vulnerable areas to ensure peaceful meeting," sources said.

As additional paramilitary (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

forces for annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji yatra also start reaching Jammu and Kashmir early June, some of the companies could reach in advance for deployment during G20 meeting. However, a decision on this will be taken at the high-level meeting to be called by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi in next few days on reviewing security arrangements for G20 meeting, general security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and upcoming pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji.

"Security arrangements for G20 meeting will be fool-proof. Several drills will be carried out ahead of the high-profile visits. All places where the international delegates will meet, stay and tour from May 22-25 will be secured with presence of Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP), paramilitary forces, Specialized Forces and Intelligence personnel," sources said.

They said delegates from majority of G20 nations will be attending the meeting on Working Group on Tourism in Srinagar

'Several beneficiaries had addresses of other States'

CAG detects lack of monitoring, doubtful payments to NGOs for construction of IHHLs

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 10: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has detected lack of monitoring and doubtful payments to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved in the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, it has noticed that several beneficiaries had mentioned addresses of other States of the country in the documents submitted for availing the benefit of the scheme.

In its latest report, the supreme audit institution of the country has (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

*Ordered last year, re-verification yet to be completed

mentioned that Rs 19.87 crore was paid to NGOs in 20 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for construction of 12,297 IHHLs for identified beneficiaries. However, during audit it came to the fore that IHHLs constructed by NGOs for beneficiaries were not closely monitored to see whether work was executed as per approved specifications as no monitoring reports were on record.

"Instead of making payment in stages as envisaged in empanelment and allotment orders, the payments were made to NGOs in lump-sum. The photographic evidence in support of having

close monitored the physical progress of construction work in stages was not kept on record", the CAG said.

The audit selected 1,315 cases of IHHLs for collection of data in respect of completion certificates obtained from beneficiaries for passing payments in favour of NGOs and noticed that in respect of 364 IHHLs completion certificates were not on record; in respect of 123 IHHLs completion certificates though signed by beneficiaries were not authenticated by the Urban Local Body authorities and in six cases completion certificates

were not signed by beneficiaries. Though Director Finance, Housing and Urban Development Department stated in August 2022 that payment was released to the NGOs after obtaining requisite certificate from the beneficiaries/IE/ CEO yet the CAG said that the replies were not convincing as no monitoring reports and photographic evidence in support of having close monitored the physical progress of construction work in stages were on record and payments were made to NGOs in lump-sum.

In Jammu Municipal Corporation, audit noticed that actual site of construction of IHHLs by NGOs was not men-

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Will cost Rs 225 per dose

COVID jab Covovax as heterologous booster to be available on CoWIN

NEW DELHI, Apr 10:

In view of rising cases of COVID-19 in various parts of the country, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is learnt to have approved the inclusion of Serum Institute's Covovax as a heterologous booster dose for adults, official sources said today.

Covovax is likely to be available on the portal in a few days at a price of Rs 225 per dose plus applicable GST.

The move comes after a letter was written by Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, Serum Institute of India (SII) to the Union Health Ministry on March 27, the sources said. According to an official source, Singh had mentioned in (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

his letter to the ministry that Covovax is a world class vaccine approved by the DCGL, WHO and USFDA and it should be included on the CoWIN portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults.

Covovax can be administered to those who have already vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin. Last month, the COVID-19 Working Group headed by Dr N K Arora had also recommended to the Health Ministry for the inclusion of the vaccine on the portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults who have been vaccinated with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on January 16 had approved the market authorisation for Covovax for those who have been administered two doses (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

AAP new national party; TMC, NCP, CPI lose tag

NEW DELHI, Apr 10:

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was recognised as a national party while the Trinamool Congress, NCP and the CPI were stripped of the coveted status by the Election Commission today.

In separate orders, the Commission also revoked the State party status granted to RLD in Uttar Pradesh, BRS in Andhra Pradesh, PDA (Manipur), PMK (Puducherry), RSP (West Bengal) and MPC (Mizoram).

The country now has six national parties - BJP, Congress, BSP, CPI(M), NPP and AAP. AAP was formed by Arvind Kejriwal in 2012 and went on to sweep the Delhi Assembly elections in 2015 and Punjab in 2022. "National party in such a short time? This is nothing less than a (Contd on page 4 Col 7)