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**PSC gets two new members**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
 JAMMU, Apr 11: The Administration today appointed Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, District and Sessions Judge (Retd) and Tariq Ahmed Khan, Director General (Expenditure Division), Planning (Retd) as the Members of the Public Service Commission.  
 An order issued in this regard read, "SO 199-in exercise of powers conferred by Clause 2 of the Article 316 of the Constitution of India read with Section 93 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019 and SO 3937 (E) dated October 31, 2019 read with order issued in terms of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**Woman among 2 LeT associates held**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
 SRINAGAR, Apr 11: Security forces today arrested two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) including a woman in Pattan area of Baramulla district and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.  
 "Acting on specific information regarding movement of militant associates, police along with Army (29RR) and SSB (2ndBn) busted a terror module at Pattan Baramulla and arrested two militant associates linked with LeT," a police (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**Cong targets Madhav on bribe charges**

NEW DELHI, Apr 11: The Congress today asked why the CBI or ED is not knocking at the doors of RSS leader Ram Madhav after former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik alleged that he was involved in corruption, a charge strongly rejected by the former BJP general secretary.  
 Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said in October 2021, Malik had claimed that a senior RSS functionary had offered him a bribe of Rs 300 crore to clear two files related to "Ambani" when (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**97 test COVID +ve in J&K**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
 JAMMU, Apr 11: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 97 fresh cases of COVID-19 cases, 49 from Jammu Division and 48 from Kashmir valley.  
 According to the reports, highest number of 28 cases were reported from Jammu district, followed by 14 from Srinagar, 10 from Budgam, 7 each from Kupwara and Kulgam, 6 from Samba, 4 each from Udhampur and Kishtwar, 3 each from Rajouri, Baramulla and Ganderbal, 2 from Reasi and 1 each from Kathua, Poonch, Anantnag and Bandipora districts.  
 As per reports, a total of (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**Lavender cultivation to be undertaken along NH: Dr Jitendra Katra-Delhi Expressway to be ready before LS polls for inauguration by PM: Gadkari**

**Nishikant Khajuria**  
 KATRA, Apr 11: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari today announced that Katra-Delhi Expressway will be completed ahead of the schedule and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by January or February 2024.  
 "The deadline for completion of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

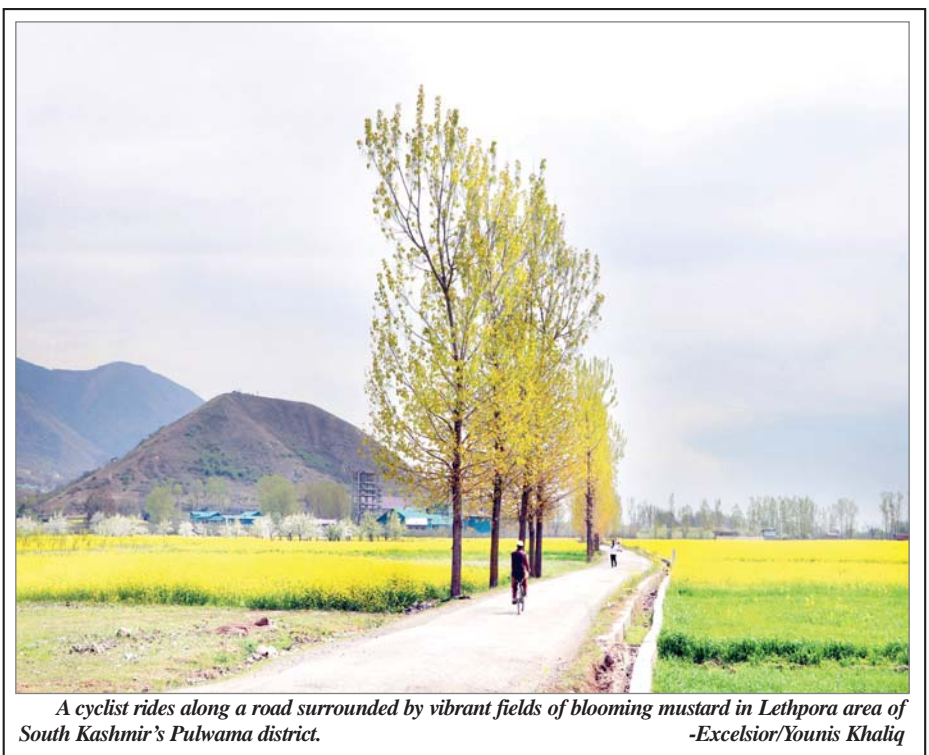


Union Minister Nitin Gadkari along with LG Manoj Sinha, Dr Jitendra Singh and V K Singh conducting breakthrough of a tunnel on Tuesday.

Greenfield Expressway is December 2024, but I have asked the executing agency to finish the job before the Modal Code of Conduct comes into force ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, which are scheduled to be held in May 2024 so that inauguration of the project is done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said, while addressing a press conference, here today after inspecting ongoing works on Banihal section of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.  
 Flanked by Lt Governor (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Manoj Sinha, Union Minister of State in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh and MoS Road Transport and Highways, Gen (Retd) V K Singh, Gadkari told the media persons that he has no hesitation to look for political mileage by getting the project inaugurated before the Lok Sabha polls.  
 He informed that after completion of this significant project at a cost of Rs 40,000 crores, the Expressway will reduce the distance between Delhi and Katra by 58 kms and travel time to 6 (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

four-laning project due to the threat of landslides, mud-slides and shooting stones even as work on remaining part of 4-laning of the highway was complete.  
 While elaborating, Nitin Gadkari said that to ease the travel between Jammu and Srinagar, three corridors are being built at a cost of Rs 35,000 crore, which will reduce the earlier distance of 320 kms by 70 kms and travel time from 10 hours to four hours.  
 The first corridor from Jammu to Udhampur-Ramban-Banihal and further to Srinagar is being built at a cost of Rs 16,000 crore and 210 km of this route has been completed, including 10 tunnels of 21.5 km while work in the remaining 35 km length between Ramban and Banihal is in progress, he said and added that NHAI is expecting to complete all works in this section by August 2025.  
 "We have completed the 10 km road in the Ramban-Banihal stretch and except Marooq-Digdole tunnel, the rest of the 30 (Contd on page 4 Col 5)



A cyclist rides along a road surrounded by vibrant fields of blooming mustard in Lethpora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

*-Excelsior/Younis Khaliq*

**Home Secy to chair meet today, Shah tomorrow**

**MHA to review J&K security situation for two days on April 12, 13**

**Sanjeev Pargal**  
 JAMMU, Apr 11: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has called two high-level meetings for review of security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir in the Union capital for two days on April 12 and 13 even as it specifically reviewed Railways security in the Union Territory today.  
 The MHA meeting on April 12 will be chaired by Home Secretary A K Bhalla and on April 13 by Home Minister Amit Shah.  
 The review meetings come ahead of G20 Working Group on Tourism meeting in Srinagar, annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji shrine and tourist season. Anti-militancy operations, strengthening of Border Security Grid and preventing any kind of terror strike including selective killings of non-locals by the militants ahead of G20 meeting will also figure at (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**Rlys security reviewed at high-level meet in Delhi**  
 Sunil Kumar. Senior officers of Northern Railways, whose jurisdiction extends up to Jammu and Kashmir Railways were also present at the meeting.  
 Sources said a threadbare review of providing fool-proof security to railway passengers in Jammu and Kashmir including Lakhnapur to Katra in Jammu division and then from Banihal to Budgam in Kashmir valley came up for review at the high-level meeting attended by top officials of the Union Home Ministry.  
 Trains to Jammu have already started witnessing heavy rush of passengers especially that of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji pilgrims as the months from April to October are considered as (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**Govt constitutes teams to enroll Kashmiri migrant voters all-over country**

**Avtar Bhat**  
 JAMMU, Apr 11: In a bid to ensure that Kashmiri migrants participate in democratic process and cast their votes in coming elections, the Government has constituted teams to ensure that displaced people from Valley putting up at Jammu and other parts of the country are enrolled as bonafide voters of Kashmir.  
 According to official sources, the teams of the Relief and Rehabilitation Organization have already been dispatched to outside Valley and they have visited Mumbai, Pune, Chandigarh and tomorrow the team is visiting Bangalore in Karnataka and Ahmedabad in (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Gujarat where the Kashmiri migrants are putting up to get them enrolled as voters in Valley and ensure that they will vote in coming Assembly and Parliamentary elections from their respective constituencies in Kashmir.  
 Sources said, this is for the first time in last over 30 years after the mass exodus of Kashmir Pandits from Valley that the Government has made a serious effort to ensure that the displaced people take part in democratic process positively.  
 Sources said, that the process has been started on April 5 and it will culminate on April 20. The Relief and Rehabilitation Organization teams will visit Delhi NCR from April 15 to April 20 for enrolment of migrants putting up there, sources added.  
 The process has already been started in Jammu region and Relief Organization teams will visit door to door in the areas where Kashmir migrants are putting up to ensure that they are enrolled as voters, sources said. Total 22 teams have been made for Jammu region for the enrolment of migrant voters with staff strength of 50 to 60 officials.  
 Sources said that Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, K K Sidha is heading the team which visited Pune and Mumbai in Maharashtra and he will visit Bangalore tomorrow. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

The Government is making all efforts to motivate the Kashmiri migrants putting up in other States of country to get themselves enrolled as voters in Valley their ancestral place and ensure that the democratic process in the trouble torn Kashmir is strengthened, sources said.  
 Sources said the main objective of the process initiated by Relief and Rehabilitation Department is to ensure maximum awareness and facilitation of Kashmiri migrants in electoral rolls of their constituencies of their original residence in Valley.  
 Sources said besides 22 teams two more special teams (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**SCERT rolls out new syllabus, academic calendar for 2023-24**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
 SRINAGAR, Apr 11: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has developed and designed a comprehensive "Syllabus cum Academic Calendar" for the academic session 2023-24, which includes the foundational stage, and the classes 1 to 8 in the schooling system of Jammu and Kashmir.  
 The syllabus is in accordance with the latest guidelines and instruction manuals issued by NCERT, New Delhi, and is aligned with the NEP-2020 to improve the quality of education, which aims to shift from rote learning to competency and experiential-based learning.  
 After four months of rigorous effort by experts from (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

NCERT and SCERT, the new syllabus maps the learning outcomes with the contents of the prescribed textbooks of J&K Board of School Education.  
 In a remarkably short span of time, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory to create such a comprehensive document, outpacing all other States and Union Territories in the country.  
 The exercise took place under the guidance of Professor Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director of SCERT and Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, Joint Director of the Central Move Office, a group of academic officers and resource persons from the Assessment Cell of the Education Research Survey and Assessment (ERSA) division of SCERT.  
 The syllabus aims to enhance the quality of education in Jammu and Kashmir by shifting the focus from rote learning to competency-based and experiential learning. The syllabus is in sync with the latest guidelines and instruction manuals issued by the NCERT, New Delhi, and is aligned with the NEP-2020.  
 "The new syllabus also aims to provide teachers with the flexibility to plan their classroom activities in a meaningful and productive manner, keeping in mind the Learning Outcomes suggested by the NCERT and NEP-2020."  
 "The Learning Outcomes are a set of expected knowledge, skills, and values that students should acquire at the end of each class or level," Joint Director, SCERT. (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**India to see normal monsoon**

NEW DELHI, Apr 11: In a relief for the agriculture sector, India is expected to get normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon season despite the evolving El Nino conditions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said today.  
 The IMD prediction comes just a day after a private forecasting agency, Skymet Weather, predicted "below-normal" monsoon rains in the country.  
 Rained agriculture is a critical component of India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on this method. It accounts for about 40 per cent of the country's total food production, making it a crucial contributor to India's food security and economic stability.  
 The case was registered by (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**Court frames charges against 4 accused in militancy case**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
 SRINAGAR, Apr 11: The Court of Special Judge Designate under NIA Act, Srinagar today framed charges against four accused persons including the Pakistan based militant Ali Kashif Jan against whom proceedings under Section 299 CrPc have been initiated by the Court.  
 The SIA in a statement said that the accused persons involved in the case include Umar Mushtaq Khan son of Mushtaq Ahmad Khan of Begum Bagh Kakapora Pulwama, Murtaza Rashid Dar son of Abdul Rashid Dar of Sambaora District Pulwama, Sajjad Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Nabi Dar of Dethoo Herpora Shangus District Anantnag and Ali Kashif Jan alias Jan Ali Kashif son of Gohar Ali of Village Doisrah Tehsil/District Sharsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan of Jaish-e-Mohammad.  
 The case was registered by (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

SIA Kashmir on 01.09.2022 on credible inputs that handlers of militant organizations in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy have created new modules of OGWs for aiding, abetting, assisting, harbouring and providing logistic support to militants/secessionist organizations, with intention to further terrorist and unlawful activities in the UT of J&K.  
 These modules were operating in secrecy with operatives and operated independently. The modules were in constant touch with handlers / members of terrorist organizations across the border through encrypted internet messaging platforms, besides others software applications.  
 During investigation, the SIA said three local accused persons were found having clandestine connections with Pak based militant Ali Kashif Jan alias Ali Kashif of proscribed JeM, through social media and other secret messaging apps with the object and motive to promote militant activities, besides procuring and supplying arms/ammunition among the terrorists for carrying out terrorist activities and waging war against the union of India.  
 The SIA Kashmir, after thorough investigation of the case presented the charge sheet against all four accused persons before the Designate Court of Special Judge on 04.03.2023, the statement said adding on Tuesday after hearing the arguments from Public prosecutor as well as the defence counsel, the Court found charges against all the accused persons well founded and accordingly framed charges against them. (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**Intl community asked to condemn such behaviour India facing serious challenge of cross-border weapons' supply: Kamboj**

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 11: Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj also asserted that "certain states with dubious proliferation credentials" that collude with terrorists should be held accountable for their "misdeeds".  
 "The export of weapons and military equipment in violation of international law, exacerbating geo-political tensions, cannot be ignored," she said.  
 She said that the quantum of these threats multiplies when "certain states with dubious proliferation credentials, in view of their masked proliferation networks and deceptive procurement practices of sensitive goods and technologies, collude with terrorists and other non-state actors."  
 Speaking at the UN Security Council's open debate on "Threats to International Peace and Security: Risks Stemming from Violations of Agreements Regulating the Exports of Weapons and Military Equipments" held on Monday under Russia's Presidency of the Council for the month of April, India's Permanent (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**GCM recommends sacking of Gp Capt in Budgam crash**

NEW DELHI, Apr 11: A General Court Martial (GCM) instituted by the Indian Air Force has ordered sacking of a Group Captain for the crash of an Mi-17 V5 helicopter in Budgam in Jammu and Kashmir after it was hit by a missile on February 27, 2019, official sources said today.  
 The attack helicopter was struck by the IAF's own surface-to-air missile when the chopper was on its way back to Srinagar on the day Indian and Pakistani air forces were engaged in a dogfight, according to a Court of Inquiry.  
 The sources said the GCM ordered dismissal of Group Captain Suman Roy Chowdhury, who was serving then as the Chief Operations (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

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**INSIDE**  
 A big impetus to Jammu tourism ...Page 6  
 Major High Court initiative for pending cases  
 CS emphasizes on digital DPRs, billing of all works under OMMAS ...Page 3  
 BJP thanks LG for deferring power tariff hike ...Page 3  
 People from Kashmir, Jammu united for their rights: Farooq ...Page 5  
 LG Ladakh holds meet with Dept Secretaries ...Page 5  
 Rohit leads from front to set maiden win for Mumbai Indians ...Page 12

**WEATHER**  
 JAMMU:  
 Mainly dry  
 TEMPERATURE  
 Max: 33.4 Degree C  
 Min: 17.4 Degree C  
 RELATIVE HUMIDITY  
 RH-I (Morning): 62.0 per cent  
 RH-II (Evening): 52.0 per cent  
 Sunset on Wednesday: 06.59 p.m.  
 Sunrise on Thursday: 06.06 a.m.  
 SRINAGAR:  
 Mainly dry  
 TEMPERATURE  
 Max: 25.1 Degree C  
 Min: 7.1 Degree C  
 RELATIVE HUMIDITY  
 RH-I (Morning): 59.0 per cent  
 RH-II (Evening): 28.0 per cent  
 LEH:  
 TEMPERATURE  
 Max: 13.0 Degree C  
 Min: -2.0 Degree C