# daily Excelsior

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## *Militants escape after shootout*

***Excelsior Correspondent***

SRINAGAR, Apr 12: After a brief shootout, militants managed to give slip to security forces in Chakoora area of Shopian district today.

A police officer said that

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there was a brief exchange of firing between militants and security forces at Chakoora village.

As the firing stopped, searches were intensified at the suspected spot, where no militant was found. "They might

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## *Nitish, Tejashwi hold 'historical' meet with Kharge, Rahul*

NEW DELHI, Apr 12:

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav held a "historic" meeting

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with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi today, and decided to bring together as many opposition parties as possible to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a joint press conference after the meeting, Kharge said the opposition will

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## Father kills son; injures wife, daughter

***Excelsior Correspondent***

SAMBA, Apr 12: In a gruesome and barbaric act, a man killed his 21 year old son, and inflicted injuries on his wife and

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daughter early this morning at village Dakhi Sumb falling in the jurisdiction of Police Station (PS) Samba.

The incident has sent shock waves around after the news spread in the area. The exact

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## *Rana posted as IG CRPF*

***Excelsior Correspondent***

JAMMU, Apr 12: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has ordered posting of Additional DGP Danesh Rana as IGP in CRPF on deputation for a period of five years.

Rana is 1996 batch IPS officer of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre (now AGMUT).

His deputation was cleared by the MHA today.

## *4 jawans killed in Army Stn firing*

BATHINDA/NEW DELHI, Apr 12:

Four Army jawans were killed early today in firing inside a Military Station in Bathinda in Punjab, triggering a hunt for two men spotted with their faces cov-

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

ered and armed with a rifle and an axe.

The four personnel, in their mid 20s, were sleeping when the firing took place around 4:30 am in their barracks near the officers' mess in the artillery unit.

According to "the informa-

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## *122 test COVID +ve in J&K*

***Excelsior Correspondent***

JAMMU, Apr 12: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 122 fresh cases of COVID-19, 52 from Jammu division and 70 from Kashmir region.

According to the reports, highest number of 38 cases were reported from Jammu district, followed by 18 from Srinagar, 14 from Kulgam, 11 from Baramulla, 7 in Bandipora, 6 from Doda, 5 each from Budgam, Anantnag, Shopian and Kishtwar, 3 from Kupwara, 2 each from Udhampur and Pulwama, and 1 from Rajouri district.

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*Union Minister to give appointment letters in Jammu*

# PM to inaugurate Rozgar Mela in J&K, other States/UTs today via VC

## ■ Second event in JK in less than 5 months

**Sanjeev Pargal**

**JAMMU, Apr 12: Jammu and Kashmir is among the Union Territories/States where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Rozgar Mela followed by distribution of 71,000 appointment letters to newly recruited youth across the country tomorrow through video conferencing.**

Union Minister of State for Power and Heavy Industries Krishan Pal will physically distribute appointment letters at Jammu Convention Centre to the candidates tomorrow morning after inauguration of 'Rozgar Mela' by the Prime Minister via video conferencing from New Delhi, official sources told the Excelsior.

Modi will also address the appointees on the occasion.

This is second 'Rozgar Mela' in Jammu and Kashmir, the first being on November 22, 2022 which was also inaugurated by the Prime Minister through video conferencing and later the Union Ministers distributed appointment letters to the candidates at different places including Jammu and Srinagar.

"A number of appointments have been made in the Railways," sources said, adding the jobs also pertained to many other departments.

**The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join various positions/posts under Government of India like Train Manager, Station Master, Senior Commercial-cum-Ticket Clerk, Inspector, Sub Inspector, Constable, Stenographer, Junior Accountant, Postal Assistant, Income Tax Inspector, Tax Assistant, Senior Draughtsman, JE/Supervisor, Assistant Professor, Teacher, Librarian, Nurse, Probationary Officers, PA, MTS, among others, the sources said.**

They said the 'Rozgar Mela' is a step towards fulfillment of the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accord highest priority to employment generation.

"The Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development," sources said, adding the newly inducted appointees will also get an opportunity to train themselves through Karmayogi Prarambh, which is an online orientation course for all new appointees in various Government departments.

**As per the officials, the 'Rozgar Melas' will be made a regular exercise across the country including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.**

"This will give boost to employment opportunities," sources said, adding that more and more Government departments are coming forward with advertisement of vacancies and recruitment on fast track basis to absorb unemployed youth.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory Government has already identified nearly 20,000 vacancies for recruitment in various Government departments for the current year after carrying out an exercise by asking the departments to refer available vacancies to the General Administration Department (GAD).

The Home Department has topped with 6256 vacancies, which are unreferred as well as fit for referral, out of a total of 20,000 posts which will be advertised during due course of time this year in Jammu and Kashmir. The vacancies will be mainly in the Police Department including Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs), Sub Inspectors and constables including 15 in Gazetted rank, 6158 in non-Gazetted and 83 Class-IV.

Second highest number of 3073 posts belonged to the Health and Medical Education

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G20 meet, Amarnath yatra, border security on agenda

# After preliminary meeting by MHA, Shah to chair high-level meet today on J&K

***Excelsior Correspondent***

## *LG, top officials to brief HM on situation*

**JAMMU, Apr 12: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today held preliminary round of review of security scenario in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir ahead of tomorrow's crucial meeting on the issue by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.**

Shah will review various aspects of security scenario and development works in Jammu and Kashmir in a meeting at North Block tomorrow afternoon.

Excelsior had today exclusively reported that back-to-back meetings are scheduled to be held in the MHA on Jammu and Kashmir situation on April 12 and 13.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary AK Bhalla, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Home Secretary RK Goyal, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh and DG CID Rashmi Ranjan Swain will be present at tomorrow's meeting to be chaired by Shah. They will give detailed briefing to Shah on various aspects of situation in the Union Territory.

**Today's meeting was also attended by senior officers of civil and police administration from Jammu and Kashmir some of whom reached New Delhi yesterday while others landed this morning.**

"Today's meeting discussed the host of issues pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir especially upcoming G20 meeting from May 22-25, annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji shrine, security arrangements for tourist season, anti-militancy operations and strengthening of Border Security Grid," sources said, adding threadbare discussion will be held on these issues in the meeting to be chaired by Amit Shah tomorrow.

Today's meeting at the MHA lasted one and a half hour.

A detailed strategy will be chalked out to ensure peaceful

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*Tourism Deptt eyeing Rs 2000 cr investment per year*

# Strategy chalked out to position J&K as leading global destination by 2025

**Mohinder Verma**

## *Perspective Plan under Swadesh Darshan-2 submitted*

**JAMMU, Apr 12: The Government has chalked out a strategy to position Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as leading global tourist destination by 2025 and Tourism Department is expecting to attract average investment of Rs 2000 crore per year besides generation of employment for about 50,000 people per year.**

As per the latest Economic Survey, J&K Tourism Policy, which was formulated in the year 2020, is a holistic framework for sustainable and responsible growth of tourism sector and aims at improving the conditions for tourism development, supporting tourism industries, strengthening tourism-support functions and developing tourism sub-sectors.

"The policy has been prepared with the objective of positioning tourism as a major engine of economic growth and to harness its direct and multiplier effects for employment and poverty eradication in an environmentally sustainable manner", the Survey said, adding "the policy aims to generate employment for approximately 50,000 people per year. Moreover, there is an expectation to attract average investment target of Rs 2000 crore per year for next 5 years".

**Stating that steps taken by the Tourism Department have started yielded positive results, the Survey said that the highest ever arrival of tourists to Kashmir during 2022 was about 27 lakh as compared to previous highest of 13 lakh in 2016, adding "J&K has a total room capacity of 58,100 with bed capacity of 1,24,196 (including Government and private sector) and home-stays are being encouraged and tented accommodations are being developed to add the capacity".**

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## *Two SPs posted*

***Excelsior Correspondent***

JAMMU, Apr 12: Government today ordered transfer and postings of two police officers.

As per an order issued by the Home Department, Jammu and Kashmir, Diya D, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Baramulla. The post of Additional Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, has been redesignated as Superintendent of

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Calls for retrofitting, other measures to lessen damage

# Study tags north-Jammu city residential structures prone to earthquakes

**Irfan Tramboo**

**SRINAGAR, Apr 12: A recently conducted study has found that the residential buildings constructed in the northern part of Jammu city which lies on the right bank of the Tawi river, are extremely vulnerable to earthquakes.**

Prof. Abdullah Ansari, Prof. K. Seshagiri Rao, Prof. Arvind K. Jain from the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, Falak Zahoor from the National Institute of Technology in Srinagar, and Tanzeel Ur Riyaz from the Deptt. of Civil Engineering at the RIMT University in Punjab are the authors of the study titled 'Seismic Vulnerability of Residential Buildings in Jammu City, Jammu and Kashmir' which has been published in Springer's Soil Dynamics, Earthquake and Computational Geotechnical Engineering, Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering-Volume 300.

It attempted to assess the seismic vulnerability of residential buildings in Jammu city by conducting an intensive field survey and collecting data from 75 wards related to demographic framework and structural specifications, while separate seismic vulnerability maps were prepared based on building density, population ratio, building height, building age, and construction material.

"All these five factors together play a significant role in deciding the seismic vulnerability of any structural element. To study the combined effect of all these five parameters, the logic tree framework was adopted with an equal weightage of 0.5 for both demographic framework and structural specifications. One-third part of Jammu city falls under the high to very high vulnerability class. The northern part of the city which lies on the right bank of the Tawi River is more vulnerable compared to the southern part," it states.

During the survey, the data for 225 buildings were collected from 75 wards in Jammu which were used to evaluate the seismic vulnerability of residential buildings located in Jammu city.

"According to building density, 15 wards covering 20% of the total area fall under the 'Very Low Vulnerability' category; 19 wards

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# NCERT drops paragraph on J&K's conditional accession with India

**Bivek Mathur**

**JAMMU, Apr 12: Authors of NCERT's revised class 11th political science textbook have dropped a paragraph on Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession with the Union of India in 1947.**

The older version of the textbook read, "for example, the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union was based on a commitment to safeguard its autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution."

But in the 10th chapter of the revised textbook, titled "The Philosophy of the Constitution", the reference to Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession has been deleted by the authors of the textbook.

Article 370 was done away with on August 5, 2019 by the Central Government and the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir with latter with a legislature.

The authors of the revised textbook have also deleted a reference of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from the first chapter of the book.

The older version of the textbook read, "The Constituent Assembly had eight major Committees on different subjects. Usually, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad or Ambedkar chaired these committees. These were not men who agreed with each other on many things. Ambedkar had been a bitter critic of the Congress and Gandhi, accusing them of not doing enough for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes. Patel and Nehru disagreed on many issues. Neverthless, they all worked together."

But the new version of the textbook read, "Usually, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or BR Ambedkar chaired these Committees."

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was a political personality of Indian National Congress who was elected as Congress President in 1923 and 1940.

He was the first Education Minister of independent India. Maulana Azad was posthumously awarded 'Bharat Ratna', India's highest civilian honor, in 1992.

*Activities of art, culture in Jammu to suffer*

# No solution so far to fix leaks in roof of Abhinav Theatre

**Sanjeev K. Sharma**

**JAMMU, Apr 12: Expected to be complete by January this year, the repair work of roof at the elite cultural centre of Jammu-Abhinav Theatre, to fix the leaks, is yet to takeoff and this has badly affected the activities of art and culture though some drama and film festivals were organized at this auditorium owing to favourable weather conditions.**

Some reputed artists of Jammu claimed that it is nearly over a decade from now that water started percolating from the roof of this auditorium and in between it was also closed for some time.

They also informed that it is the only auditorium in Jammu which is available at very reasonable rates and has almost all the facilities to cater the needs of art and culture events ranging from major to minor ones.

Reliable sources informed that tendering process for the repair work of Abhinav Theatre roof may start within days and technical problems have caused delay in this regard.

They claimed that being an old building built somewhere close to 1975-76, the auditorium needs repair of its roof for fixing the leaks on priority after which all other works of its interiors like white washing, changing of doors, repair of electric circuits etc would commence.

**"J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Secretary, Bharat Singh is very much concerned for the repair work of the auditorium but the construction agency PWD feels that there is no permanent solution in this case," they said adding: "Even if some company solves the problem with a guarantee that the leaks will not recur for at least 10-12 years, it might also be considered."**

Other sources informed that some 5-8 options are under consideration but none of these has come out to be satisfactory as each of these fixes the problem only for 2-3 years which only mean wastage of money.

"Now the constructing agency-Public Works Department (PWD) is preparing a new report as the auditorium has no pillar and no beam in its roof

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