

**From page 1**

**HC refuses to enhance compensation**

The land owners were seeking quashing of the recommendations of the Committee issued vide No. 570/OQ/TA dated 04.09.2013 in its meeting in so far it relates to the payment of compensation for Shamlat land under the possession of the petitioners which they contend is beyond the limit prescribed on the basis of so-called pro-rata.

The Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice M A Chowdhary said the Collector, Land Acquisition has rightly followed the law and got a requisite report from the Tehsildar concerned and thereafter disbursed the compensation to the persons entitled to Shamlat Deh land on pro-rata basis.

"This is how the compensation as per their share was also disbursed to the petitioners, who received the compensation and did not raise any objection or protest. In view of the aforesaid admitted position, we are at loss to understand as to what has made the petitioners to still pursue the petition", the court said.

It recorded its concern as to why the petitioners are seeking enhanced rate on Shamlat land and observed that "greed has no limits", but to satisfy insatiable greed, the process of law and the forum of courts cannot be permitted to be used.

The petitioners, court added, should feel satisfied and content with the compensation they have received for the Shamlat land to which they were entitled to as per law. Their occupation of the Shamlat land in excess of their share cannot inure to their benefit. "In view of the aforesaid, we find no merit in this petition, the same is dismissed, as such", the court concluded.

The controversy raised in the petition was that Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir vide his No. JDDK/Dev/Acq-541/EWuyan3256-58 dated 04.01.2013 placed an indent with the Collector, Land Acquisition, Pulwama with a request for acquisition of land measuring 416 kanals for establishment of Industrial Estate at Khrew.

The land was notified for acquisition by the Collector, Land Acquisition by issuing notification under Section 4 (1) of the Land Acquisition Act and out of

the subject land, land measuring 239 kanals was proprietary in nature, while as, rest of the land measuring 177 kanals was partible Shamlat classified as Shamlat Section (5).

The matter was taken to the District Private Negotiation Committee for amicable settlement of the compensation. The District Private Negotiation Committee after holding consultation and deliberation with all stakeholders took a decision on 26.06.2013 and fixed a rate of Rs. 500 lacs per kanal to be paid to the owners and interested persons. The compensation for the proprietary land was immediately disbursed in favour of the rightful claimants i.e., recorded owners as per the revenue record.

So far as the partible Shamlat land measuring 177 kanals is concerned, the Collector, Land Acquisition, took up the matter with Tehsildar, Pampore to prepare a pro-rata report indicating the share of each land holder in the partible Shamlat land.

On the basis of report submitted by Tehsildar, the compensation at the rate determined by the Private Negotiation Committee (PNC) was paid to the rightful claimants and the grievance of the petitioners is that they were entitled to be paid the compensation for the entire Shamlat land under their occupation irrespective of their share in the Shamlat on pro-rata basis.

The petitioners claim to have purchased the Shamlat land under their occupation from a Kashmiri Pandit by way of a Sale Deed. The Collector, Land Acquisition, refused to accede to the request of the petitioners to disburse them the compensation for the entire Shamlat land under their occupation and not to the actual land under their occupation.

Court said the Collector, Land Acquisition, Pulwama could not oblige the petitioners for the reason that the law clearly provided that the land holders would be entitled to share in the partible Shamlat land on pro-rata basis i.e., proportionate to their holdings and not to the actual land under their occupation.

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**Draft reservation bills of J&K finalized after approval by all concerned Ministries**

**draft Cabinet note for Inter-Ministerial Consultation was circulated and the same was informed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Cabinet Secretary.**

Simultaneously, the process was completed for granting reservation for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir to the OBCs.

The Valmikis will also be included as per another legislation.

At national level as well as in many other States and UTs, the OBCs have been given 27 per cent reservation.

A sizeable population of Valmikis was also denied reservation in SC category as they were not given State Subject rights in view of Article 370 due to their migration from Punjab. They will be included in the SC category now.

Sources said separate amendment in Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act is also likely to be moved in the Parliament granting reservation of two seats to Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) in the Legislative Assembly based on recommendations of the Delimitation Commission.

The Panel headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai had also suggested that the Centre can consider reservation for Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) refugees.

Meanwhile, BJP UT president Ravinder Raina has described as "historic" the circulation of draft bill on grant of ST status to Paharis without affecting rights of Gujjars and Bakerswals.

He said it was the BJP Government at the Centre which has done justice with all by granting the reservation to those who were denied their rights for decades together.

An announcement for bringing Pahari Ethnic Tribe under Scheduled Tribes was first made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in his rallies at Rajouri and Baramulla on October 4 and 5 last year. The reservation was based on recommendations of GD Sharma Commission report.

The Home Minister had, however, made it clear that grant of reservation to Paharis under ST category will not dilute the reservation already granted under this category to Gujjars and Bakerswals.

Besides, Paddari Tribe, Koli and Gadda Brahmins will also get ST status.

Other Backward Classes (OBCs) will be extended reservation in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. They don't have reservation in J&K so far. However, Other Social Castes (OSCs) were granted reservation of four percent in the Union Territory.

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**Union Minister dedicates 6 ATFs to J&K including 5 in Jammu**

As per the sources, the Central Government has assured to bear expenditure of infrastructure development and four posts each in the ATFs besides giving other required funding.

They added that the ATFs in Psychiatric Hospital (GMC Jammu) and SKIMS Soura will have De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centres, Outdoor Patients Department, Rehabilitation Centres and Therapy while four District Hospitals including Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch and Kishtwar will initially have OPDs but the facilities there will be subsequently enhanced.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Viendra Kumar informed that the Government of India has been implementing National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), an umbrella scheme under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments/ Union Territory (UT) administrations for preventive education and awareness generation, capacity building, skill development, vocational training and livelihood support for ex-drug addicts, programmes for drug demand reduction by States/UTs etc. and NGOs/VOs for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA).

"Establishing ATFs in the Government hospitals is a special initiative under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)", Dr Kumar said.

Lauding various initiatives of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Union MoS Home Nityanand Rai said, "The ATF ini-

tiative and Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, through various activities, over 9.45 crore people have been reached out so far. Around 8,000 Master Volunteers have been selected and trained to lead the Abhiyaan activities in the 372 identified districts. More than 3.08 crore youth have actively participated in the activities of the Abhiyaan to spread the message against substance use, the Union Minister added.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India has initiated ambitious Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), currently operational in 372 districts of the country with an aim to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, University Campuses, schools and reaching out into the community and garnering community involvement.

Considering that India has a huge population of people affected by alcohol and drug addiction and the proportionately lower availability of services for addiction treatment, the MoSJE has launched the **Addiction Treatment Facility programme.**

The programme is being coordinated nationally by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, New Delhi.

The MoSJE has identified certain districts in the country which are to be treated as priority districts for establishing ATFs. The Ministry plans to have at least 125 districts covered under the ATF programme.

The fund is utilized for provision of amenities and infrastructure like water supply, sanitation, connectivity communications, irrigation, electricity supply, health care, education, housing etc; strengthening of social services like education, healthcare, social security, social safety, net skill upgradation training etc; afforestation and environmental improvement; projects for livelihood support, income generation and economic activities; improvement of institutional mechanism for delivery of public services; establishment and maintenance of District Mineral/Member Secretary Office and allied infrastructure in the respective district and other activities as may be specified by the Governing Body.

**Now, minor mineral block holders to pay towards District Mineral Foundation**

Further, Sub-Rule 3 has been added in Rule 11 and now, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, simple interest at the rate of 12% shall be charged per annum on District Mineral Foundation payments after one month from the date it becomes due.

There is District Mineral Foundation in each and every district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and it consists of District Magistrate, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Superintending Engineer PWD, District Forest Officer, District Panchayat Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner, District Social Welfare Officer and Chief Agriculture Officer.

**Doval meets Putin**

On Wednesday, Doval attended the fifth multilateral meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils/NSAs on Afghanistan which was hosted by Russia.

"We are also worried about attempts to use the situation in Afghanistan to allow extra-regional forces to expand or build their infrastructure," Putin said, according to the Kremlin.

"These countries will create this under the pretext of countering international terrorism, but they are not doing anything that is really necessary in the real counterterrorism struggle," he said.

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"Obviously, the situation in the country is not improving and we see this. The humanitarian situation is worsening," Putin added.

In his address at the multilateral meeting on Afghanistan, Doval said no country should be allowed to use Afghan territory to export terrorism and asserted that India will never abandon people of Afghanistan in their time of need.

Besides Russia and India, the meeting was attended by representatives from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Doval began his two-day visit to Russia on Wednesday.

On Monday, Russian Ambassador to New Delhi Denis Alipov said Russia wants to further diversify its relations with India.

The NSA's visit to Russia came three months after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to the country during which the two sides vowed to expand their economic engagement including India's import of petroleum products from its "time-tested" partner.

Doval's visit to Moscow also took place ahead of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is expected to travel to India to attend the meeting on March 1 and 2.

The ties between India and Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

India's import of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few months despite increasing disquiet over it in many Western countries.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. (PTI)

**Rain, snowfall in J&K; Army, IAF airlift pregnant woman from Nawapachi**

Nawapachi area of Kishtwar district to the town where the lady is being treated at district hospital," Defence spokesperson Lt Col Devender Anand said.

He said Army has been making efforts to reduce the hardships faced today. Many vehicles have been stranded on both sides of the road while fresh movement from Kishtwar and Jammu-Udhampur side was suspended by Traffic police authorities this evening.

Meanwhile, the hills of Kashmir

He further advised people to stay alert and away from avalanche prone areas.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority issued a fresh avalanche warning in 12 districts for the upcoming 24 hours.

The DMA issued a 'Medium Level' warning above 2000 to 2500 metres over Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Kulgam, Doda, Kishtwar and Poonch districts.

People living in these areas have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded an increase in temperature with minimum temperature settling at 0.4°C against minus 0.1°C the previous night. Today's minimum temperature was above normal by

the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the place.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 4.2°C against minus 6.5°C the previous night and it was 2.5°C above normal for the skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 2.3°C against minus 1.9°C on the previous night and it was 4.3°C above normal for the town.

Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 10.0°C and minus 15.0°C respectively.

There has been sharp decrease in the day temperature in Jammu, Katra and many other areas of region after rain and snowfall on the higher reaches. Hills around Baderwah town, Dudu-Basantgarh, Lati, Bani, Patniptoi, Nathatop, besides many areas of Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch and Rajouri experienced fresh snowfall this evening.

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A pregnant woman being airlifted by IAF and Army troops from snowbound Nawapachi area of Kishtwar on Thursday. —Excelsior/Tilak Raj

by people in the area that has harsh weather and extremely difficult living conditions, especially during winters when it gets cut off from the rest of the district due to closure of roads.

As Ramban sector and entire Chenab region was experiencing rain and snowfall at higher reaches since morning, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was blocked at Panthal due to fresh landslides this evening.

An official spokesman said that due to falling of boulders and frequent shooting stones, the National Highway was blocked at around 6.40 pm today. A large number of trucks loaded with goods bound for Valley have been stranded between Chanderkote, Ramban and Ramsu areas. There were no chances of opening road during night, the spokesman added.

He said Batote-Kishtwar road was also blocked due to fresh landslides near Thathri at around 5 pm

and parts of Jammu region including the ski resort of Gulmarg today received heavy snowfall while parts of the Valley were lashed by rains and light snowfall.

Several areas including a famous ski-resort Gulmarg, Gurez, Sadhna Top, Karnah, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal and other parts of North Kashmir received fresh snowfall today.

Gulmarg recorded around 2 feet of snow while plains of north Kashmir recorded 3-9 inches of snow till today evening. Gurez recorded a fresh snow of about one foot today while Tangdar, Sumbal Bala Ganderbal, Lolab and other areas recorded a snowfall of about 9 inches.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus said that there is a possibility of cloudy weather conditions with light rain and snow at scattered places of J&K on February 10.



Heavy snowfall in Kupwara area of North Kashmir. —Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

**Dirt of allegations will help lotus bloom more: PM**

election symbol of BJP - will bloom."

"Keechad unke pass tha, mere pass gull, Jo jis ke pass tha, usne diya uchal," Modi quoted Manik Verma's poem in response to the allegations opposition parties levelled on him and his Government.

Roughly translated, it means they had dirt and I had 'gull', whosoever had whatever they flung in the air.

Opposition parties used the debate on the motion to attack the Government for Adani group's phenomenal rise during the last few years.

In his reply, Modi accused the Congress of adopting only "tokenism" in solving problems the country faced and said it was bothered only about its political ambitions and not the welfare of the nation.

"We don't believe in tokenism. We have chosen the path of hard work in taking the country forward," he said, adding technology was being used as an aid in this mission.

He accused the Congress of tramping on the rights of States and regional parties by dismissing elected Governments on 90 occasions by "misusing" Article 356 of the Constitution. "Who are the people?" he asked and responded that Indira Gandhi alone had used the Article 50 times to dismiss Governments.

"This country is not anyone's fiefdom. Our policies reflect national and regional aspirations," he said. "But these people who are now sitting (with Congress), I want to expose them today."

He then narrated how elected Governments of the Left in Kerala, NT Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh, Sharad Pawar in Maharashtra and M G Ramachandran in Tamil Nadu were dismissed by the Congress. And today these parties are sitting along with the Congress, he said.

"NT Rama Rao's Government was dismissed when he was in the US for medical treatment," he said, adding M G Ramachandran must be turning in his grave seeing his DMK align with the Congress.

He also alleged that the Congress had committed sins in the past and is now trying to mislead the country.

The Prime Minister warned states against resorting to populist measures for political gains, saying it would be "anarth-niti" (disastrous policy).

With many parties in states promising freebies and reverting to heavy cash outflow schemes like old pension in run-up to elections, he cited examples of near bankruptcy in neighbouring countries to say that they should not play with the financial health and economic policies. "Do not do any such sin which leaves the burden on the next generation."

Attacking the Congress, he said the party named as many as 600 schemes after the Nehru-Gandhi family.

The Congress, he charged, was against science and technology and it defamed Indian scientists who developed indigenous COVID-19 vaccines.

"They do not leave any chance to defame our scientists," he said, adding attempts were being made even "till yesterday".

Modi also accused the previous Congress Governments of ignoring the welfare of tribal communities and small and marginal farmers.

While the Congress-led Governments believed in "tokenism", the current regime is trying to find permanent solutions to issues facing the countries, he said.

Modi further said during the Amrit Kaal -- the period up to centenary of India's Independence -- his Government would aim to provide benefits of all welfare schemes to everyone and achieve 100 per cent saturation levels, and put an end to any scope for appeasement on the basis of caste and religion.

"Saturation of every welfare scheme is true secularism for us...This also eliminates discrimination and corruption," he asserted.

He listed various achievements of his Government - from eliminating waiting period for getting cooking gas to opening bank accounts for everyone and providing electricity connections.

The effort was to create a brighter future and not look at political gains, he said.

"Some people's behaviour and language are disappointing not just for the House but for the country," he said in oblique reference to the allegations opposition parties levelled on him.

Later, the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was adopted with voice vote. (PTI)

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Qazigund recorded a low of minus 0.8°C against minus 1.8°C the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the town.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against minus 7.6°C the previous night and it was 3.8°C above normal for the famous tourist resort.

Kokemarg recorded a low of minus 0.6°C against minus 0.1°C

Baderwah recorded a minimum temperature of 3.7 degree C, Batote 5.7 deg C, Banihail town 2.6 deg C, Katra 9.1 degree C and Jammu 9.9 degree C temperature today. The MeT has predicted rain in most of the areas in Jammu region during next two days. From Sunday onwards, weather would remain dry in most of the areas in the region for couple of days, he added.

**PO dismissed**

Waseem Ahmad Qureshi, the then Assistant Public Prosecutor in the Court of Judicial Magistrate, Ukhral, while on his way to Rajouri on May 4, 2020 was found to be in possession of eight grams of a contraband substance by a police party. Subsequently, a case was registered against him and he was placed under arrest, as per the order.

The officer has acted in a manner unbecoming of a public servant and has also failed to maintain absolute integrity thus violating Service Rule of J-K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, it said.

An inquiry found him guilty and he was dismissed from service, Goyal said in the order.

"The report of the inquiry along with all other relevant details were placed before the competent authority for consideration and decision. The Authority approved the report submitted by the Inquiry Officer and directed imposition of a penalty upon the delinquent officer Waseem Ahmed Qureshi, Prosecuting Officer, which is dismissal from service of the State which ordinarily disqualifies from future employment", the order read.

The official was also issued with show cause notice in connection with a penalty imposed on him, which he failed to respond resulting in dismissal from service as well as disqualification for future employment in Government, it said.

"Therefore, in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956, Waseem Ahmed Qureshi, Prosecuting Officer, is dismissed from service, with immediate effect, which will also disqualify him from future employment," Goyal said in the order.

**Govt takes over commercial complex of BJP leader**

Department in future.

An official said that in an anti-encroachment drive, today Tehsildar Srignufwara handed over the shopping complex built on State land by ex-MLA and vice president Biji Sofi Yousuf and his brother Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi at Main Market Srignufwara to the RDD. "However, no shop has been sealed, keeping in view the livelihood of shopkeeper families who are running their shops in the said complex," he added.

allegedly from the BJP leader. However, today the officer called the Block Development Officer (BDO) to the Tehsil office and asked him to take possession of the building but he wanted the handover to take place on the spot.

However, later, the BDO agreed to take possession without visiting the spot. The shopkeepers were also called to the Tehsil office and asked to pay the rent to the Rural Development

**Discovered in India for first time, Lithium reserves found in Reasi**

Poonch districts and advance ahead in finalising availability of Lithium in J&K in a time bound manner.

Talking to the Excelsior, Amit Sharma said that all necessary steps should be taken in collaboration with Geological Survey of India and decimated teams of the department shall work round the clock to ensure that this historical feat of auctioning Major Mineral Blocks shall take place within a time bound manner

"Lithium blocks which are a rare thing and much demanded global mineral for electric batteries which is the future, shall be explored and auctioned so that J&K figures on the global map so far as availability of Lithium reserves in the world are concerned," he added.

Pertinent to mention that Lithium is a metal that is known for its low density, high energy-to-weight ratio and its ability to store large amounts of energy. It's also the lightest of all metals in the periodic table of elements, and its soft, silvery-colored metal is widely used for its heat-resistant properties.

Though it's one of the oldest elements to have been around, Lithium is not nearly as abundant here on Earth as its gaseous counterparts. The metal makes up just 0.002 percent of the Earth's crust, though arguably, that is higher than the supplies of tin, silver, gold and platinum combined. Lithium doesn't ever occur naturally in its metallic form as it's highly reactive to the elements and minerals around it. Rather, it's found in a crystalline form alongside rocks and other mineral deposits in the Earth's crust.

Main use for Lithium nowadays is in batteries. Because of its high energy storage properties, lithium batteries can power small devices for long periods of time without overheating — things like watches, cell phones, laptops, tablets, remotes and more all use lithium batteries to keep them going for days, weeks or years at a time.

More recently, Lithium has been a central player in the development and production of renewable energy technology. Its ability to store energy has been crucial in capturing and storing energy created through wind, solar and hydro power, and many pieces of machinery or technology have lithium batteries to maintain and distribute that energy long after the source has stopped producing energy. Solar-powered vehicles, for example, can only generate energy while the sun is out, but the lithium batteries can continue to provide previously-generated energy after the sunshine is gone.

We use Lithium commercially in its metallic form, but it doesn't appear in that state naturally. It has to first be extracted, then separated from its other minerals, then turned back into its metal form.

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**CINEMA**

APSARA AUDI-1: PATAHAN (HINDI) - 10.15 AM, 01.15 PM, 04.15 PM, 07.15 PM.  
 APSARA AUDI-2: KUTTEE (HINDI) - 11.00 AM, 1.15 PM, 3.30 PM, 6.30 PM  
 HARI THEATRE: WALTAIR VEERAYYA (HINDI) - 10.00AM, 12.30 PM, 3.30 PM, 6.30 PM  
 PVR KC AUDI 1: 1. PATAHAN (HINDI) - 12.00 PM, 3.15 PM, 6.30 PM, 9.45 PM  
 PVR KC AUDI 2: PATAHAN (HINDI) - 10.05 AM, KALI JOTTA - PUNJABI (U/A) - 1.20 PM, TITANIC-3D ENG (U/A) - 4.05 PM, SHIV SHASTRI BALB (HINDI) - 8.05 PM, PATAHAN (HINDI) 10.55 PM  
 WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: TITANIC-3D ENG (U/A) 12.40 PM, KALI JOTTA - PUNJABI (U/A) - 4.30 PM, TITANIC-3D ENG (U/A) 7.10 PM, KALI JOTTA - PUNJABI (U/A) - 10.45 PM  
 WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: PATAHAN (U/A)-10.15 AM, 1.10 PM, 04.05 PM, 7.00 PM, 10.00 PM  
 WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. KALI JOTTA - PUNJABI (U/A) - 12.05 PM, 2. PATAHAN (U/A) - 3.00 PM, 3. PATAHAN (U/A) - 6.00 PM, 4. PATAHAN (U/A) - 9.00 PM

Edited, Printed, Published by Kamal Rohmetra and owned by Daily Excelsior. Executive Editor Neeraj Rohmetra. Printed at Daily Excelsior and Excelsior Printer Pvt Ltd, Janipura, Jammu and published from EXCELSIOR HOUSE, Janipura, Jammu 180007 (J&K). Phones: 0191-2537055, 2537901, 2539178. Fax: 0191-2537831 and 2530272 Editor's Residence: 0191-2431830, 2433288. E-mail: editor@dailyexcelsior.com. Advertisement Manager Ajay Mengi 9419187959. For Advertisement queries: advt@dailyexcelsior.com (M) 9419111428. Residence Nos: Jammu Bureau Chief: Sanjeev Pargal (94191-80969), Special Correspondents: Mohinder Verma (9419185803), Gopal Sharma (9419180803), Avtar Bhat (9419142184), Nishikant Khajuria (9419143132), Srinagar Office: 2 Pratap Park Srinagar. Phone: (O) 0194-2450213, New Delhi Bureau Chief (Advt) : C.S. PAUL 9810068545, 9910997733 (M), 011-23327188 (O), 3/15, INS Building, Rafi Marg. Mumbai Advertisement Office Incharge: K.S. Nitin 9322509953 (M) 022-22883904, 22821859 (O) 22845484 (Fax) C/o S. J. Business Centre, Islam Building Room No. 17/18, 1st Floor, 46 Veer Nariman Road.

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**WEATHER**

JAMMU:  
 Possibility of light rain/Thunder shower  
**TEMPERATURE**  
 Max: 18.5 Degree C  
 Min: 9.9 Degree C  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
 RH-I (Morning): 76.0 per cent  
 RH-II (Evening): 54.0 per cent  
 Sunset on Friday: 06.13 p.m  
 Sunrise on Saturday: 0