

**AC approves Public Grievances Deptt**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

SRINAGAR, July 6: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha gave approval to the establishment of the Department of Public Grievances as a separate Administrative Department.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**Rajnath reviews defence issues**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

NEW DELHI, July 6:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today carried out a comprehensive review of the ongoing military reforms, domestic defence manufacturing and

**■ Pic on page 4**

ways to bolster research and development for weapons systems and hardware.

In the course of a day-long 'Chintan Shivir', he also directed various departments and

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**India rejects ruling on Kishenganga, Ratle projects**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

NEW DELHI, July 6:

India today said it cannot be compelled to participate in "illegal" proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects in Kashmir after the Hague-based tribunal ruled that it has the "competence" to consider the dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad on the matter.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**SC adjourns hearing on Assembly polls**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

NEW DELHI, July 6:

The Supreme Court today deferred hearing on a plea seeking directions to the Election Commission and the Government for holding early Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra noted that peti-

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**4 new members appointed in CBDT**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

NEW DELHI, July 6:

Four IRS officers of the Income Tax Department have been appointed as Members in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Union Finance Ministry, according to a Government order.

The CBDT is the administrative body for the department and it is tasked to collect revenue under various direct tax categories such as person-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**ACB nabs R&B employee taking bribe**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

SRINAGAR, July 6:

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today trapped and arrested an employee of Roads and Buildings Department on charges of bribery.

An official of the ACB said that one Ghulam Nabi Wani was arrested red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 28000 at Bandipora.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**Two Madrassas sealed in Kishtwar for FCRA violations**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, July 6:

District administration of Kishtwar has seized and sealed two Madrassas (Islamic educational institutes) for Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) violations.

Following directions from the Home Department of J&K, orders were issued by

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

**DM Northern Railway, others inspect work PM Modi to inaugurate world's highest Railway bridge in Reasi**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, July 6: World's highest railway bridge on Chenab River between Bakhal and Kauri in Reasi district is one of the mega projects listed to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi before the announcement of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Authoritative sources told the Excelsior that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate the Chenab bridge, which is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) and nearing completion.

In the wake of purported development, General Manager Northern Railway Shobhan Choudhary along with top officers visited the bridge site yesterday and took stock of the finishing works being completed at war footing level, sources added.

Accompanied by CEO Construction; ADRM Jammu, Baldev Raj; Chief Engineer Sandeep Gupta and others, GM Shobhan Choudhary is learnt to have issued necessary instruc-

tion for early completion of the USBRL associated works, including the bridge.

The bridge has already completed all the mandatory tests, which were successfully conducted recently and followed by a spot visit by the Union Minister of Railway, Communications and Electronic and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav.

The tests that were conducted to check the stability and safety of the world's highest bridge included high-velocity winds test, extreme temperatures test, earthquake-prone test and hydrological impacts due to water level increase. The bridge is able to withstand winds with speeds up to 260 kmph and will have a lifespan of 120 years.

This highest railway bridge in the world spans the Chenab River at a height of 359 m (1,178 ft) above the riverbed, which is 35 meters taller than Paris' Eiffel Tower. The arch bridge forming a crucial link from Katra to Banihal, is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link

(USBRL), a dream project worth Rs 35000 crore.

Even as the date of inauguration has not yet been finalized, sources said that PM Modi will dedicate this iconic bridge to people of Jammu and Kashmir as the second monumental project after Chenani-Nashri Tunnel during his tenure as Prime Minister of the country.

The people of J&K will get the bridge after two decades of waiting since the project was approved in 2003 but was delayed shortly due to fears of stability and safety. In the year 2008, the fresh contract for constructing this railway bridge was awarded.

When contacted, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who represents Kathua-Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituency in Lok Sabha, said it was a matter of pride that after getting India's longest road tunnel between Chenani and Nashri, his constituency is all set to get the world's highest railway bridge. "Modi era is synonymous to development and my constituency is fortunate to

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**LG launches RDD's initiatives to make Amarnath pilgrimage zero-landfill**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

SRINAGAR, July 6:

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today launched various innovative initiatives of Rural Development Department to make Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra a zero-landfill pilgrimage.

These initiatives include reusable cloth bags, Yatra Anthem for sustainable and responsible tourism, MIS Portal and Web App for waste process monitoring.

In his address, Sinha congratulated the Rural Development Department and Swaaha Resource Management for their commendable work.

"Zero-waste pilgrimage is our resolve. Sincere efforts are being made to transform

\*Govt to safeguard spiritual, cultural values

Information, Education and Communication Campaign into Behavioral Change Communication and also to create an effective model for solid waste management," the Lt



LG Manoj Sinha launching RDD's initiatives in Srinagar on Thursday.

Governor said. He said, with the help of volunteers, IEC campaign and seamless coordination at four

different stages of Solid Waste Management, their aim is to evoke profound responsibility towards environment, protection of natural heritage and the sustainable use of natural

assets. "Swachh Campaign for this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra signifies Government's

**On appointment, J&K HC to get representation among CJs SC Collegium recommends Justice D S Thakur as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh HC**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, July 6:

Supreme Court Collegium comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice Sanjiv Khanna has recommended that Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Judge in High Court of Bombay, be appointed as Chief Justice of High Court of Andhra Pradesh.

The office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh fell vacant on May 19, 2023 consequent upon the elevation of Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra to the Supreme Court.

Keeping in view Memorandum of Procedure relating to appointment of Chief

Justice of a High Court, the Supreme Court Collegium has proposed to appoint Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur as Chief Justice of Bombay in June 2022 and has been functioning there since then.

The recommendation made by the Supreme Court Collegium on February 9, 2023 for his elevation as Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur has been pending with the Government. On appointment of Justice Thakur, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh would get representation amongst the Chief Justices of the High Courts as per the Memorandum of Procedure.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**17,202 yatris pay obeisance at holy cave**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

\*Total darshan figure crosses 84,000

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 6: With 17,202 yatris paying obeisance at the Swami Amarnathji holy

district on sixth day of darshan today, the cumulative total of pilgrims reached to 84768.

Among the pilgrims who



Swami Amarnath Ji pilgrims on way to holy cave from Panchtarni on Thursday.

visited holy cave were 12,408 males, 4095 females, 490 children, 192 Sadhus and 17

Sadhvis. The influx of yatris continue to surge with each passing day making it one of the most successful yatra in the country, an official spokesperson of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) said.

The entire yatra is being monitored from Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at HMT which has been put in use for Swami Amarnath Ji Yatra since 2022, he said.

He said ICC, HMT is being integrated with RFID to monitor Yatra remotely on real time basis. All departments monitor and send communication to their staff in field from here to cater to the requirements of yatris.

The spokesman said ICC helps in effective management of operations in exceptional sce-

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**Transfer orders of 211 Forest officials cancelled**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, July 6: Chief Conservator of Forests Jammu, BM Sharma today cancelled the transfer orders of 211 officials including Foresters and Beat Guards issued by the Conservators of Forests (CFs) and Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) during May and June this year.

Official sources said that on the directions of the Principal Secretary to Government Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, the orders issued by the respective DFOs and CFs after April 2023, in violation of GAD order, have been cancelled.

Sources added that DFO Jammu had transferred 38 such officials, CF East Circle Jammu

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**Action against police band for disrespect to national anthem**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

SRINAGAR, July 6: After strong warning by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to the top brass of the Police in Srinagar's Police Golf

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)



Pilgrims on their way to have darshan of Shiva Lingam near holy cave, in Baltal on Thursday. (UNI)

**Women, SC, ST Reserve seats to be rotated For first time, polls to be held for 19 Municipal Councils, up from 6 last time**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

\*DEOs, Deptts set to initiate exercise shortly

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 6: Number of the Wards in all 78 Urban Local Bodies is expected to be same as fresh areas haven't been included in them but elections will be held for the first time on 19 Municipal Councils as compared to seven in 2018 while number of Corporations and Committees will remain unchanged as office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and the UT administration geared up to conduct largest electoral exercise for Municipal and Panchayat elections in October-November after completion of their five years term in the UT.

As exclusively reported by the Excelsior last month, a formal order for revision of electoral rolls, rotation of reserved seats and delimitation of Wards for Municipalities and Panchayats is expected to be issued anytime now.

Official sources told the Excelsior that last time election was held for six Municipal

Councils—three each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions while this time polling will be held for 19 Councils—10 in the Valley and nine in Jammu.

Municipalities in 18 district headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir (except Jammu and Srinagar) have already been upgraded as Councils while Sopore also has a Council taking total numbers to 19.

However, number of Municipal Corporations stayed at two-one each in Jammu and Srinagar while number of Municipal Committees has come down from 70 to 57 because of elevation of 13 Committees as Councils.

J&K has 20 districts while Jammu and Srinagar districts have Corporations, rest all 18 district headquarters have one Council each besides Sopore.

As far as Panchayats are concerned, their number is expected to be almost same but the Rural Development Department will shortly come out with the details. As per the officials, the process for Panchayat polls will

be initiated once the State Election Commission (SEC) is constituted or its powers are given to Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) PK Pole for conduct of the elections.

"Chances are that the Government might constitute the SEC shortly which became defunct after completion of term of KK Sharma in February this year," the officials said.

They said the electoral rolls of Municipalities which were used in 2018 elections will be updated. The exercise will become easy as only in the month of May, the CEO office has completed Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls for Jammu and Kashmir and data will help in updating rolls for the Urban Local Bodies.

Some data can also be used for Panchayat polls but rolls for both the polls have to be revised to ensure that no voter who is eligible to cast vote is left out, the officials said.

"Task for rotation of reserved seats is also expected to be assigned to the District

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

**Rs 10 cr too sanctioned for residential accommodations Govt releases Rs 17 cr for construction of offices of BDCs, DDCs across J&K UT**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 6: Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has released Rs 17 crore for construction of offices of the Block Development Councils and District Development Councils and Rs 10 crore for construction of residential accommodations for the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). However, the Government has warned against diversion of these funds at any stage and initiation of action in case of non-compliance of the conditions.

**Warns against diversion of funds at any stage**

As per the details available with EXCELSIOR, an amount of Rs 41.85 crore was proposed during the current financial year (2023-24) for construction of office buildings of the Block Development Councils (BDCs) and District Development Councils (DDCs) and against this an amount of Rs 17.31 crore has been sanctioned by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati

Raj in favour of Director Rural Development Jammu/Kashmir under UT Capex Budget.

Similarly, an amount of Rs 29.42 crore was proposed during current financial year for construction of residential accommodations for the members of District Development Councils and Block Development Councils. Against this, an amount of Rs 10.73 crore has been sanctioned by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in favour of Director Rural Development Jammu/Kashmir for its further release to the Chief Engineer Public Works (R&B) Department.

Rs 10.73 crore will be utilized for construction of residential accommodation apartments for PRIs/protected persons at Bandipora, 2 BHK residential accommodation at Kulgam, residential accommodation for DDC/PRI Members Jammu, 2 BHK accommodation at Birwan in Udhampur, residential accommodation at Poonch, 2 BHK residential apartments and dormitory at Drugmulla in Kupwara, residential accommodation for PRIs and protected persons at Gagren in Shopian etc.

It has been made clear in the funds authorization letters

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**CB searches office of GMC Principal**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, July 6: The Crime Branch Jammu today carried out raids at the office of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu Principal Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma to collect documents in connection with Date of Birth forgery case.

\*Pic on page 4 Video on www.excelsionews.com

Few days back, the Crime Branch Jammu had registered First Information Report (FIR) against the GMC Principal for forging date of birth.

Officials said the Crime Branch teams reached the Government Medical College this morning and conducted

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

**More Ladakhi youth can join Navy: Admiral Kumar PM enhances combat capabilities of Indian Armed Forces: LG Ladakh**  
*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, July 6:

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brigadier (Retired) BD Mishra today said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has enhanced combat capabilities of the Armed Forces and India is now exporting BrahMos missiles and other big weapons while it is going to become second largest economy in the world shortly.

\*Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

Brig Mishra made these remarks while addressing an event organized by the Indian Navy in Leh which was also attended and addressed by Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar.



LG Ladakh Brig (Retd.) B D Mishra addressing a function organised by the Indian Navy in Leh on Thursday.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has enhanced capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces. In the past they were ignored. Modi started working for them

and today India is exporting BrahMos missiles and other big guns," the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh said.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)