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Govt develops new technique to stop encroachments

Entire State land to be included in 'negative list' to prevent registration

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 10: After removal of encroachments from the State land and carrying forward the process, the Government has taken a major decision to ensure that there are no encroachments on such lands in future and, for the purpose, it has initiated massive exercise to mark entire State land in "negative list" and supply it to Registrars and Sub Registrars, responsible for registration of documents, to see to it that no Registry of the Government land is carried out.

"The process of identification of entire State land in Jammu and Kashmir has been initiated. Following completion of the process, entire State land will be marked in "negative list" and this list will be uploaded in software and supplied to all Registrars and Sub Registrars who will ensure that the State land isn't registered," official sources told the Excelsior.

"New software will be devel-

*Software being readied in Pune, to be out shortly

oped in Pune," sources said, adding the Government hopes to complete the exercise shortly.

The Revenue Department of Jammu and Kashmir Government, which has taken the task of developing software marking the State land in "negative list", will, however, be open to the objections.

"If someone has grievance that his private land has been shown as the State land inadvertently, he will be listened. If the person succeeds in authenticating his claim based on documents, the land will be removed from the negative list," sources said.

The step will prevent further encroachment of the Government land in fool-proof manner, they said, adding there have been reports that anti-encroachment drive by the administration notwithstanding, some land grabbers in connivance with lower

staff of the Revenue Department continued to make attempts to encroach upon the State land.

"The new technique will thwart their designs," they said.

Admitting that since it was not physically possible to keep eye on the State land each and every time to prevent its encroachment at the hands of grabbers, sources said once registration of the State land is stopped the encroachments will automatically end.

The new system is expected to take few days as the Revenue Department, which has been executing the task, will have to identify the State land and record its entries into the software. Further, they will also have to ensure that wrong entries are not made and private land is not shown as the State land which can cause inconvenience to the local population.

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Expenditure restriction relaxed

FD authorizes release of 25 pc more funds for DDCs, BDCs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Finance Department of the Union Territory Government today authorized release of further funds in respect of District Development Councils (DDCs), Block Development Councils (BDCs) and Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) grants.

The funds have been authorized for utilization through Budgetary Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS), an order issued by the Finance Department, said.

"Release of 25 percent more funds will aggregate to 100 percent in respect of DDCs, BDCs and PRI grants out of approved Balance Expenditure 2022-23 or as per revised figures 2022-23, whichever is less in respect of all works/activities under district Capex (capital expenditure)," the order read.

As per the order, the Finance department has also conveyed relaxation to the expenditure restriction of 15 percent during the month of March 2023 and 30 percent during last quarter of current Financial Year of 2022-23 for works executed within these grants.

"Utilization of funds shall,

however, be subject to other conditions as stipulated vide the previous Government order," it said.

According to sources, development works being executed by the District Development Councils, Block Development Councils and Panchayats will get boost with release of 100 percent grants of district Capex in their favour.

As reported, during upcoming annual budget of Jammu and Kashmir scheduled to be presented by Finance Minister Nimala Sitharaman in Parliament next week, the Government is expecting significant budgetary allocations for both urban and rural local bodies though spending by the District Development Councils, Block Development Councils and Panchayats remain an area of concern.

The Central and Jammu and Kashmir Governments have been giving special focus to DDC, BDCs and Panchayats ever since elections were held to them.

"Healthy grant for DDCs, BDCs and Panchayats will lead to further development in rural areas," sources pointed out.

On its own, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has been giving lot of funds to Urban and Rural Local Bodies for development works.

Petition against Aptech sent back to Single Judge for disposal

DB sets aside judgment of Writ Court quashing selection process of JEs, SIs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 10: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary has set-aside the judgment of Writ Court quashing entire selection process to the posts of Junior Engineer (Jal Shakti Department) and Sub-Inspectors (Home Department).

The DB also remitted back the writ petition to the Single Judge with a request to decide the matter afresh and writ respondents directed to file objections/counter to the writ petition within two weeks, thereafter rejoiner, if any, to be filed within next one week.

The Registry has also been directed to list the writ petition before the Single Judge on 5th of

April, 2023, when the Single Judge will finally decide the writ petition and till then interim direction dated 09.12.2022 shall remain in force.

This significant order has been passed in an appeal filed by the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board against the judgment of Writ Court quashing the exams of JEs and SIs conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

The Writ Court on December 8, 2022 directed Government to constitute a high level committee headed by not less than a retired High Court Judge to enquire into the conduct of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board for their brazen irregularities/illegalities in changing the terms/conditions of the tender, also as to what weighed with them to award

a contract to conduct an examination by an organization which has previously facilitated malpractices in public examinations and accordingly appropriate action be initiated against those found guilty.

The Writ Court had also quashed the contract awarded by JKSSB in favour of M/s Aptech Limited pursuant to e-NIT No.19 of 2022 dated 30.09.2022 for conduct of its various examinations through computer based tests mode.

The preliminary ground raised by the appellants was that Single Judge on the very first date of hearing proceeded to decide the writ petition finally without granting any opportunity to the appellants to file objections. It was vehemently

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

No compromise on transparency, merit in recruitment exams: JK SSB Chairman

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 10: In the wake of continuous protests by some job seekers against hiring of a previously blacklisted company for conducting the recruitment tests, Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), Rajesh Sharma today assured that there will be no compromise on transparency and merit.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

"The board is very much aware of your (aspirants) concerns and all efforts will be made to conduct exams in a fair, transparent and secure manner. Do not pay heed to rumour mongers and



those with ulterior motives, who are only here to disrupt the processes," he told media persons during a hurriedly called press conference, here today.

Pertinent to mention that a number of JKSSB aspirants held back-to-back protests in both the capital cities for the past two days

over the hiring of a previously blacklisted company, Aptech Limited, by the JKSSB for the conduct of computer-based written tests.

Allaying apprehensions on the hiring of Aptech Limited, SSB Chairman sought to clarify that the said agency was not blacklisted as on date, though it was blacklisted in Uttar Pradesh in May 2019 for a period of three years that expired in May 2022.

"I would like to clarify that blacklisting is a restrictive term valid for a period. It has to be distinguished from disbanding i.e. permanent blacklisting," he explained and added that Aptech Ltd was already conducting exams across the coun-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Haj forms last date extended

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 10: The J&K Haj Committee has extended the last date for submission of online Haj Application Forms (HAFs) for Haj - 2023 up to 5 pm of 20th March, 2023.

As per an official communiqué, the J&K Haj Committee has informed that applicants possessing machine readable valid Indian International Passports issued on or before 20th March, 2023 and valid upto 3rd February, 2024 will be eligible to apply for

(Contd on page 4 Col 2)

Bukhari re-elected Apni Party president

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 10: Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has been declared winner of the Apni Party's presidential elections in absence of any other eligible contestant.

The party's founder will be holding the second term as party president for another three years.

Convener of Apni Party's Election Board, Vijay Bakaya declared Syed Mohd Altaf Bukhari unopposed winner of the

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

2 H3N2 deaths reported in India

NEW DELHI, Mar 10:

India has recorded its first two deaths due to seasonal influenza subtype H3N2, one each from Karnataka and Haryana, with the Union Health Ministry saying it is keeping a close watch on the situation and cases are expected to decline from month end.

From January 2 to March 5, 451 cases of H3N2 have been reported in the country, according to the data shared by the Ministry.

"It can be seen that Influenza H3N2 is the predominant subtype

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Thousands waiting for months to get DL smart cards from RTOs due to unavailability of printing material

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Mar 10: Thousands of applicants in Jammu and Kashmir have been waiting for last about three months to get their permanent driving licenses from Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) due to non-availability of printing material including smartcards, coloured films, etc.

Rajeshwar Kumar, a University student said that he visited RTO Jammu yesterday for the third time in the past two months to know the status of his permanent driving license (DL) smart card but every time he was told to wait for few days. He is among over 16,000 applicants waiting for their permanent license from RTO Jammu for the past two to three

'Situation totally normal after annulling of 370'

Vested elements trying to tarnish India's image over J&K: Chugh

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Mar 10: Making a scathing attack on detractors of the nation, BJP national general secretary incharge J&K, Tarun Chugh today said that some vested elements are deliberately trying to tarnish the India's image especially on Jammu and Kashmir situation.

The BJP leader, while talking

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

to media, said the situation has changed a lot in trouble-torn Kashmir and there is discernable change in ground situation in the Valley after the abrogation of con-

troversial Articles 370 and 35 A. He said peace has been restored in the trouble-torn Valley and the flow of tourists has increased to a great extent. Last year record number of tourists visited Kashmir which is a testimony to the fact, he added while taking on those ele-

ments spreading canards on Kashmir and trying to mislead people on this account. Chugh, while turning tables on such elements, said the Kashmir is rapidly limping back to normalcy and the time of curfews, stone pelting and bandhs is over now. The era of despotic and dynastic rule is over and it has been replaced by good governance. At present the rule of law prevails in the UT.

"The present Government in J&K is taking all public friendly decisions and it is working for overall interests of people of the UT," he added.

Chugh said the democracy has

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"The present Government in J&K is taking all public friendly decisions and it is working for overall interests of people of the UT," he added.

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(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Asia's largest tulip garden set to dazzle visitors with 1.6 million tulips

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Mar 10: Marking the beginning of the new tourist season in the Valley, Asia's largest tulip garden overlooking the world-famous Dal lake is likely to be thrown open for tourists on March 19, with around 1.6 million tulips of 68 varieties set to mesmerize the visitors this year.

Director of Floriculture, Farooq Ahmad Rather, said that the garden has been meticulously maintained and groomed to create an idyllic and serene atmosphere for visitors. He elaborated that the trees have been pruned and manicured to perfection, allowing visitors to bask in the beauty of the verdant surroundings.

Additionally, Rather empha-



A view of tulip garden in Srinagar.

—Excelsior/Shakeel

sized that public amenities such as potable drinking water and shelters to shield visitors from the rain have been made available. "The primary objective of the garden is to offer a plethora of healthy and vibrant flowers in a pristine and sanitized environment," he stated.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

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