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Timing: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
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8715823063

LS passes Finance Bill

NEW DELHI, Mar 24:

The Lok Sabha today approved The Finance Bill 2023 with 64 official amendments including providing tax relief to some taxpayers opting for new tax regime, and removing long-term tax benefit for debt mutual funds to bring them at par with other interest earning instruments.

In a relief to taxpayers opting for deductions and exemption-free new tax regime, individuals earning marginally (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

India to use lithium reserve in J&K: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, Mar 24:

Union Road, Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari today said that if India can use recently discovered reserve of lithium in Jammu and Kashmir, it will become number one automobile manufacturing country in the world.

Addressing an event organised by industry body CII, Gadkari said there is a need to encourage public transport, and electric buses are the future. (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Rlys Minister arrives today

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is visiting Jammu and Kashmir on a two-day tour on March 25 and 26.

Official sources said Vaishnaw will reach Srinagar tomorrow morning and inspect Railways related works. He will meet senior Railways officials there.

From Srinagar, the Railways Minister will land here tomorrow evening. After night halt, he will leave for Reasi on (Contd on page 4 Col 2)

Govt hikes DA by 4 pc

NEW DELHI, Mar 24:

The Union Cabinet today increased the Dearness Allowance and dearness relief by 4 per cent to 42 per cent to benefit 47.58 lakh Central Government Employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief will be Rs 12,815.60 crore per annum. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after the meeting (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Govt attaches Tehsildar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Taking serious note of allegations of demand of illegal gratification against Tehsildar Darhal, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, Government today placed the officer under suspension.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, Tehsildar Darhal, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of J&K Civil Services (CC&A) Rules of 1956 and shall remain attached in the (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

10 packets of heroin recovered from LoC

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Mar 24: Exposing narco-terrorism nexus of the Pakistani agencies with the trans-border smuggling, the troops today foiled a major smuggling attempt by recovering 10 packets of narcotics in Shahpur area, near the Line of Control in Poonch Sector.

* Pic on page 4
Video on
www.excelsiornews.com

glers, the troops today foiled a major smuggling attempt by recovering 10 packets of narcotics in Shahpur area, near the Line of Control in Poonch Sector.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

NOTICE

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-Advt Manager

'Neighbour frustrated over G20 meeting in Srinagar'

Admn ready to hold Assembly polls in J&K whenever EC takes a decision: LG

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today declared that the administration is ready to hold Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir whenever the Election Commission of India (ECI) takes a call even as he charged the neighbouring country (Pakistan) with trying to give message that J&K isn't peaceful ahead of G20 meeting in Srinagar in May.

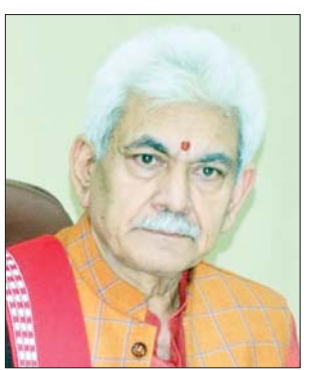
In an interview to Doordarshan, Sinha while responding to a question on conduct of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir referred to the statement of Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and Home Minister (Amit Shah) which he made in Parliament.

"Delimitation Commission has completed its task. Updated electoral lists have been published. There are Constitutional bodies in the country for certain tasks. It is the Election Commission which has to take decision on Assembly elections in J&K. Whenever the Commission decides, the admin-

*300 movies shot in a year, all distts to get cinema halls

istration is ready to hold elections," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Replying to a question on targeted killings, he said the neighbouring country (a refer-



ence towards Pakistan) is frustrated over India holding G20 Summit, whose meeting will be held in Srinagar in May.

"The neighbour didn't want India to get G20 Presidency. They want to give message that Jammu and Kashmir isn't peaceful. One incident in Kashmir becomes topic of discussion. However,

we are working in this direction and a day will come when no such incident will take place," Sinha said.

Reiterating the charge that peace was bought earlier, the Lieutenant Governor said now Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central Government and J&K administration are hitting at entire ecosystem of terrorism and the security forces have achieved very good results.

"Many militants including foreigners have been killed. No top commanders of the militant outfits have been left. Earlier, the militants used to upload pictures on social media. Today, they are frightened. Many youth were misled. Stern action is being taken against financiers of the militants. There is good coordination among security forces. Coming days would be much better," he asserted.

At the same time, Sinha said, there have been clear directions to security agencies and administration that common man shouldn't suffer. "The people shouldn't face any problem. (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Violation of guidelines, legal framework noticed Govt directs for prompt, strict action against employees misusing social media platforms

*Network can only be used for constructive purposes

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 24: Observing that Government servants often engage themselves with social media in contravention to rules, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has directed all the Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners, Heads of Departments and Managing Directors to immediately proceed against the employees indulging in unwarranted debates, discussions and sharing/commenting/posting inappropriate posts/content on

social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Instant Messaging applications like WhatsApp and Telegram etc.

The Jammu and Kashmir Employees Conduct Rules, 1971 clearly state that no Government employee shall, by any utterance, writing or otherwise discuss or criticize in public or in any meeting of any association or body any policy pursued or action taken by the Government nor shall he in any manner participate in any such discussion or criticism.

Moreover, these Rules read: "No Government employee shall, in any radio broadcast or

in any document published in his own name or anonymously, pseudonymously or in the name of any other person or in any communication to the press or in any public utterance make any statement of fact or opinion which has the effect of an

*Watch video on
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adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Government of India, Government of Jammu and Kashmir or any other State Government. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Oppn supports Cong leader

Big blow to Cong as Rahul disqualified from Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Mar 24:

In a big blow to the Congress, its leader Rahul Gandhi was today disqualified from Lok Sabha, nearly 24 hours after a Surat court convicted him in a defamation case, an action the opposition party slammed as BJP's "vindictive politics" and vowed to fight legally and politically.

The BJP dismissed the charges and termed the disqualification "lawful".

Announcing his disqualification, the Lok Sabha Secretariat in a notification said following his conviction by the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Surat, Rahul Gandhi, Member of Lok

Sabha representing the Wayanad constituency of Kerala stands disqualified from the membership of the House from the date of his conviction i.e. 23 March 2023.

*Watch video on
www.excelsiornews.com

The disqualification will bar 52-year-old Gandhi, a four-time MP, from contesting polls for eight years unless a higher court stays his conviction and sentence.

The court in Surat sentenced on Thursday Gandhi to two years in jail in a defamation case, filed on a complaint by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi for his

remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?"

A lawmaker can escape a disqualification under the Representation of the People (RP) Act if the jail term, which should be two years or above, and the conviction both are stayed by the appellate court.

Gandhi will have to move an appellate court for relief and subsequently to the Lok Sabha Secretariat to seek restoration of his status as an MP after getting a favourable judicial order in the defamation case.

In his first reaction after disqualification, Rahul Gandhi in a tweet said, "I am fighting for the (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Don't close Unani, Panch-Karma hospitals: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 24: The High Court has restrained the authorities from closing the Panch-Karma and Unani clinics and hospital established in Kashmir.

In the petition filed by Unani and Panch-Karma hospitals, the petitioner had sought directions upon the authorities to allow him to run and operate the clinics duly registered under the provisions of law and not to shut them without following due process of law.

Petitioner has also sought directions upon the respondents to adhere to the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Act of 1959, for short "Act of 1959", (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Rains lash J&K, snowfall in hills

*Temp falls, avalanche warning issued

Fayaz Bukhari/
Gopal Sharma

SRINAGAR/ JAMMU, Mar 24: While rain lashed many parts of J&K today, the hilly areas experienced fresh snowfall, bringing fall in temperature across the Union Territory.

The Met Office forecast widespread rain and thunderstorm with snowfall on higher reaches at most places in Jammu and Kashmir for next two days.

A Met official said that there was a possibility of hailstorm in the



Braving rain, two scooterists taking umbrella cover while moving through a Jammu road on Friday. - Excelsior/Rakesh (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

EC orders Spl Summary Revision of electoral rolls in J&K

*Final rolls to be published on May 10

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: The Election Commission of India (ECI) today ordered Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir, the second such exercise after the completion of the delimitation process in the Union Territory.

In a communique to Chief Electoral Officers of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the ECI has conveyed to them its decision of holding a Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls with reference to April 1, 2023 as the qualifying date.

The exercise would start on April 5 with the publication of draft electoral rolls and culminate on May 10 with the publication of final electoral rolls.

The polls were held in HP and Gujarat in 2022.

This is the second time in less than one year that the poll body has ordered a Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in J&K.

In June 2022, the ECI had ordered a Special Summary

Revision of electoral rolls in J&K. The exercise was completed on November 25, 2022.

In its communication to the CEOs, the Commission said the exercise has been ordered to keep the roll updated and to provide an opportunity to all young eligible citizens to enroll them as the last revision exercise in these States/UT was undertaken with reference to October 1, 2022 as the qualifying date.

The ECI said that it has decided to conduct a special summary revision of electoral rolls in J&K UT, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat with reference to April 1, 2023 as the qualifying date.

Meanwhile, the Chief Electoral Officer of J&K has directed that all District Election Officers shall submit action plans including SVEEP activities for the special summary revision to the office by or before March 28, 2023 so that a UT-level action plan, as desired by the Commission can be submitted by this office within the prescribed time.

"A review meeting on the action plans and other aspects of the Special Summary Revision shall be taken by the Chief Electoral Officer on April 1, 2023, the schedule of the same shall be notified separately," the CEO's communique stated.

There was net increase of 7,72,872 voters in the final electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir after they were published on November 25, 2022.

The final electoral rolls had 83,59,771 electors. Out of them, 42,91,687 were male, 40,67,900 females and 184 Third Gender. The Electoral Population Ratio had increased from 0.52 to 0.58 during the Special Summary Revision. Gender ratio of the final electoral rolls had increased from 921 to 948.

During Summary Revision, this was for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir that more than 11 lakh names were included in a single Special Summary Revision period. The names included corrections, deletions on different accounts etc.

PM felicitates J&K for implementation of 'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan'

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today felicitated the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, J&K, Bhupinder Kumar, received the bronze medal for significant achievement of more than 20 per cent reduction (compared with the baseline of 2015) in the TB incidence in J&K during the One World TB Summit ("World TB Day 2023") held at Rudraksh International Cooperation & Convention Centre, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

On the occasion, Pulwama and Anantnag districts of J&K



Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitating Secretary Health Bhupinder Kumar, DC Pulwama Baiseer-ul-Haq and DC Anantnag Dr Basharat Qayoom.

were also honoured with District Level award for achieving TB free district status for more than 80 per cent reduction in the incidence of TB from the baseline of 2015. These awards were

received from the Prime Minister by the respective Deputy Commissioners.

Further, District Srinagar was awarded with gold medal for achieving more than 60 per cent

reduction in TB incidence while Jammu and Kathua districts were awarded with bronze medal for achieving more than 20 per cent (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'Had Rahul apologized, disqualification would have been avoided'

Athawale says Assembly polls in J&K may be held shortly

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Mar 24: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale today predicted that Assembly elections

*Watch video on
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in Jammu and Kashmir may be held shortly while the Government of India is also hoped to positively consider the restoration of Statehood to the Union Territory at appropriate time.

"Government of India will soon give people of J&K their right to vote and Assembly elec-



tions may be held shortly," he said while talking to media persons, here today.

Reminding that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had already assured restoration of Statehood to J&K at appropriate time, Athawale hoped that the Government of India would positively take a decision on the same in future.

Responding to a query, the Union Minister claimed that Rahul Gandhi would not have been disqualified from Lok Sabha had he apologized for his alleged critical remarks about (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

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