

SC to hear 14 Oppn parties' plea on Apr 5

NEW DELHI, Mar 24: up for hearing on April 5. "I am asking for the guidelines for the future. This is a remarkable convergence of 14 parties against the misuse of the agencies, both CBI and ED. Ninety five percent cases of the CBI and ED are against the leaders of opposition," Singhvi said.

Dr Anil Koul listed among Top 20 innovators by BioVoice

JAMMU, Mar 24: Dr Anil Koul, has been listed among the Top 20 innovators in India for Bioscience innovations by BioVoice News. A son of the soil, Dr Koul is presently, a Professor of Translational Drug Discovery at London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in London, UK. He is also serving as Discovery head at Global Public Health Unit of Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) in Belgium.



years, Dr Koul has an exemplary output driven track record behind his back. The 50-year-old Scientist's key career milestone was his role in the discovery and clinical development of Bedaquiline, the first drug to be approved in the last 45 years for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis in more than 40 countries across the world including India.

KCCI delegation calls on Union Forest Minister

Excelsior Correspondent SRINAGAR, Mar 24: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) delegation led by its president, Javid Ahmad Tenga called on Union Minister for Forest, Environment & process involves a considerable period of time lasting for months. In this process the chain of production gets disturbed affecting the livelihood of artisans involved in the process of Pashmina weaving & embroidery. Hence, the need to have the



KCCI delegation during meeting with Union Forest and Environment Minister, Bhupinder Yadav in Delhi.

Climate Change (MOEFCC), Bupinder Yadav at New Delhi. The Minister was apprised of the problems faced by exporters of Pashmina Shawls at customs on suspicion of Pashmina shawls having the content of banned content. A detailed presentation about heritage Pashmina craft, its weaving process and exports clearance was made. It was impressed upon the minister that the centuries old cottage craft provided employment to tens of thousands of male & female artisans and the product was in demand within and outside the country in the form of shawls, stoles, rumals, lingerie and fashion items. However, for some time the exporters are facing difficulties at customs where Wildlife Department officials send it to testing facilities outside Delhi (Dehradun/Kolkata).

GMC Anantnag docs extract rare deep-neck tumour through complex surgery

Excelsior Correspondent SRINAGAR, Mar 24: Happening for the first time, the doctors at the Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag have performed the first and rare para pharyngeal tumour surgery on a patient who is currently recovering after undergoing the most vital surgery. Senior Consultant Radiologist Dr Owais told Excelsior that para pharyngeal tumours are quite rare as well as difficult to diagnose in the first place. "The approach of the surgery is challenging because of the major vessels and nerves that are situated in and around the region; it takes a lot of courage and expertise to navigate in and around the spot to take out the tumour," he said.

MS SDH Shopian directs Fair Price Shop allottee to pay Rs 2.3 cr

Excelsior Correspondent SRINAGAR, Mar 24: Soon after being assigned the look-after charge, the new Medical Superintendent, District Hospital (DH) Shopian has issued a notice to the Fair Price Shop allottee, directing him to deposit the outstanding amount within 10 days. The notice has been served to Mohammad Ashraf Shah son of Gh Ahmad Shah resident of Hergam, Shopian—the proprietor of the Fair Price Medical Shop (Amit Medical Store) situated at the District Hospital in Shopian. "You were allotted Fair Price Medical Shop on 12-09-2012 for being the highest bidder for Rs. 51.01 lacs for a period of five years," notice reads.

NDPI flays disqualification of Rahul Gandhi

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: Strong reaction emerged from the National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K here today against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as Member of Parliament following his conviction and two-year jail sentence in a defamation case. NDPI chief, Rajesh Gupta said: "The suspension of Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership is another example of dictatorship and Rahul Gandhi will be stronger now against this dictatorship." He said that the Opposition leaders have become prime targets of BJP in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'new India' while BJP leaders with criminal antecedents are inducted into the cabinet. Gupta further said that the Opposition has been suppressed in the Parliament many time but now dozens of cases are filed over petty issues. "If this has to continue, then let the Prime Minister and BJP alone contest all elections without Opposition," he maintained.

Govt to scrap tax benefit on debt mutual funds

NEW DELHI, Mar 24: The Finance Ministry is likely to bring in amendments to the Finance Bill 2023, removing the long term capital gains tax (LTCG) benefits available to such specified MFs. Currently, such mutual fund schemes attract 20 per cent LTCG with indexation benefits. Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Vishwas Panjari said the Finance Bill 2023 introduced special provisions for computing capital gains in case of transfer of a market-linked debenture. This provision is now expanded to cover specified mutual funds as well i.e. Mutual funds where not more than 35 per cent proceeds are invested in equity shares of domestic companies.

The Government is likely to make such a proposal in the form of an amendment to the Finance Bill 2023 in the Parliament, sources said. The Finance Bill 2023, which contains tax proposals for the fiscal year starting April 1, is to be taken up for approval in the Lok Sabha as early as on Friday. Once the amendments to Finance Bill 2023 gets Parliament assent, holders of mutual fund schemes which invest up to 35 per cent of their assets in equity shares would be taxed as per their slab rates. The proposal will bring parity in taxation between a market-linked debenture and a mutual fund which invests majority of its funds in debts.

Ajatshatru Singh, Ranvijay take stock of temples, infra

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: In view of the upcoming Ram Navami festival, Ajatshatru Singh and Ranvijay Singh, Trustees of J&K Dharmarth Trust, accompanied by other office bearers of



Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee, J&K Dharmarth Trust, performing puja at Ram Temple in Sagoon village of Jammu district on Friday.

the Trust, visited Ram Temple in Village Sagoon of Block Dansal in Jammu District today. During their visit, Ajatshatru Singh performed Pooja at the Ram Temple and took stock of the infrastructure and facilities. He emphasized the need for disseminating information among the masses about the rich cultural heritage of J&K and instructed the priests to ensure that every devotee who enters

the temple returns with complete knowledge of the history and significance of the temple. He also inspected the temple premises and expressed concern over the encroachment of the Trust land in the vicinity. He stressed that the Trust wants to develop a beautiful park for tourists due to the lack of facilities for visiting tourists from Jammu to Sagoon. He made it clear that the Trust will make all out efforts to get back its property sooner than later and that those who have illegally trespassed or grabbed the land of the Trust should be punished as per the law.

Ajatshatru Singh held several public meetings at Sagoon, Tootan Di Khui in Bajalta, and Dansal, where he grabbed the land of the problems faced by the people of the area. He assured them that he would take up their issues with the concerned authorities for early redressal. Kripal Singh, Ex-Sarpanch, Kama Shadgal, Block Nagrota, Sarpanch Sagoon Ashwani Kumar and Sarpanch Faqir Singh, Sidhra Block Nagrota, were also present in the meetings.

Strengthening BJP at booth level: Purnima

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: Purnima Sharma, spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu today said that strong BJP at booth level is guarantee for party's victory in all political contests and in every sphere across the Union Territory. The senior BJP leader was speaking while chairing a meeting convened to nominate Booth Samiti and Panna Parmukh in Ward No.1. This initiative was part of party's Booth Sashaktikaran campaign as large number of party activist attended the meeting. The Party's spokesperson laid stress on strengthening BJP at booth level to make sure the decimation of all opponents in the upcoming political battles. She said that strong booths of the party are guarantee for its stunning victory. Purnima urged the party leadership to pay attention to this fact that a strong booth is a must for the success of the party and there-

GCOE conducts Nukkad Natak on harassment of women

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: SPARSH Committee in collaboration with NSS Unit and Nature Club of Government College of Education (GCOE) Jammu organized Nukkad Natak on the theme "Shhh Se Shor Tak ...break the silence" at village Nadwal under the guidance of Principal Prof Aekta Gupta. The programme was coordinated by Convener SPARSH Prof Anuradha Choudhary, NSS Programme Officer Dr Shubhra Jamwal and Convener Nature Club Dr Shalini Sharma. The main purpose of Nukad Natak was to create awareness among masses about eve teasing, domestic violence and workplace harassment faced by the women. Through the play the villagers



Delegation of Haj Committee of Ladakh giving charter of demands to Union Minister in New Delhi. —Excelsior/Basharat Ladakhi

Haj Committee Ladakh delegation meets Union Ministers

Excelsior Correspondent NEW DELHI, Mar 24: Under the leadership of Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, a delegation of Haj Committee of Ladakh led by its chairperson Mohd. Ali Majaz here today met Smriti Irani, Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Meenakshi Lekhi, Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture. The delegation raised issues pertaining to Haj aspirants of Ladakh and demanded Passport Sewa Kendra at Kargil to facilitate Haj Pilgrims of Kargil District and enhancement in Haj quota for UT Ladakh. The delegation also demanded construction of proper office building for Haj Committee, arrangements for proper infrastructure/facilities for Haj pilgrims, training to the members & staffs of Ladakh Haj Committee for overall Haj process, deputation of representatives of Haj Committee of Ladakh to Saudi Arabia for assistance to Haj Pilgrims of Ladakh and provision of funds (contingency/grant-in-aid) to Haj Committee of Ladakh for the office expenses for Haj process.

Mehbooba has lost ground, no to polls her compulsion: Abhinav

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: Giving serious advice to the PDP chief, Mehbooba Mufti, Abhinav Sharma, spokesman BJP J&K today asked the former Chief Minister to shun her 'love' towards Pakistan and start working for the welfare of people. In a statement issued here, today, the senior BJP leader said that confused Mehbooba has lost political ground in the Union Territory with PDP becoming a spent force and the tantrum of not contesting polls is not her wish but a compulsion as she knows that her party is facing dearth of leaders who could become face of the party during Assembly polls. Abhinav said that Mehbooba's call that she won't fight elections till the time Article 370 is reinstated is nothing but an alibi to save her party from embarrassment because she already knows the fate of PDP in the coming elections. He said that the PDP chief should have chosen the path of making a connection with the people rather than eulogizing her preferred country Pakistan every now and then, and advising the Government of India to go for talks with the rogue nation despite the proof of that nation waging a proxy war in J&K. The senior BJP leader said that the time has gone when PDP and the NC used to sway the people by bogus promises because today the Centre led by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has shown the people in J&K that their ultimate well-being lies with the Government of India, and those misleading them are themselves in doldrums today. The BJP spokesperson asked Mehbooba to join the mainstream politics and start accomplishing the welfare of the people or else she would lose political relevance forever as people today are well versed with what is happening around and it is very difficult to befool them again and again.

SDM Chowki Chowra visits Thorni Village

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Chowki Chowra, Virender Gupta, accompanied by other officers of different departments, made his maiden visit to Village Thorni of Panchayat Balsaroo. During the visit, the SDM Chowki Chowra visited Government Primary School, Juthal, where he asked the school staff to timely prepare the result of the students. He also asked the staff to motivate the students to opt Government institutions for admissions. The visiting officer, accompanied by Sarpanches and other PRI members, also visited Sump-Tank, Stage-1. There, he exhorted upon the accompanying PHE AEEs to ensure regular attendance of the staff in the long look having been provided by the Jal Shakti Department. In order to ensure regular supply of water in the summer season, it was also directed to the officers that rising of water should be made operational during day and night shifts. Compliance in the shape of issuance of roster of employees on immediate basis was also

Two bovine smugglers held; 11 animals rescued

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: At least 11 animals illegally transported to Kashmir Valley were freed from the clutches of bovine smugglers here at Nagrota area today. A police spokesperson said that a team of Nagrota Police Station led by SHO concerned, Vishav Partap Singh, stopped one vehicle (JK02AG-1341) for checking on the Jammu-Srinagar Highway. "During search of the vehicle", he said, "11 animals were found crammed in the vehicle without permission". Accordingly, he said the driver and the cleaner of the vehicle, Rafiqat son of Sardar Ahmed and Riyaz Ahmad son of Haleem of Anantnag, were arrested and booked in case FIR 107/2023 under section 188 of the IPC registered at Police Station Nagrota. "While the vehicle carrying animals has been seized and further investigations are on," he said.



AAP leaders & activists protesting at Jammu against arrest of Manish Sisodia & Satyendar Jain.

AAP protests against arrest of Sisodia, Satyendar Jain

Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Mar 24: Aam Aadmi Party, J&K Jammu unit, organized a peaceful and protest demonstration here today at Dogra Chowk near Jammu Press Club Jammu to condemn the arrest of former Deputy CM of Delhi, Manish Sisodia & Health Minister Satyendar Jain. The AAP leaders and activists stood in a long queue at M A Stadium main gate side adjoining Dogra Chowk with black ribbons on their shoulders and placards and banners in their hands having slogans against Modi Government. While addressing the media persons on the occasion, senior leader of AAP, Maj Gen (Retd), R S Jamwal condemned the Modi regime for arresting Sisodia & Jain in false cases just to defame the pro-people mission of Kejriwal. He alleged that the arrest of former AAP ministers was merely a result of political enmity to stop the healthcare of poor & education of Dalits in Delhi. "BJP never wants education of poor as it is merely keen to exploit the poverty for a paid vote bank," Mr Jamwal said.

100-foot high Tricolour erected at Udhampur Railway Station

Excelsior Correspondent UDHAMPUR, Mar 24: A 100-foot high monumental National Flag was erected today at Udhampur Railway Station. Udhampur is a major passenger train terminal of this region from where at least eight train pairs originate and terminate. Speaking on the occasion, Uchit Singhal, Station Director Jammu told media person that it was a proud moment for all to have tricolour fluttering high at the Udhampur Railway premises. "It gives a sense of pride and nationalism to all," he said.



Pt Omkar Nath Shastri, Sampadak Vijeshwar Panchang Jammu who has been among Asia's top ten award winners in Astrology conferred by Maa Sharda Jyotshidham Anusandhan Sansthanam, Indore (MP) during 30th Jyotish Vastu Maha Kumbh held at Ujjain for his contribution to astrology.