

Centre blocks 14 Apps in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, May 1: After getting inputs from Intelligence agencies, the Central Government has blocked 14 Messenger mobile applications that were largely used in Jammu and Kashmir for spreading terror.

According to sources, these mobile applications were used by militants in Kashmir to communicate with their supporters and Over Ground Workers (OGW).
"Agencies keep track of channels used by OGWs and militants to communicate among themselves. While tracking down one of the communication, agencies found that the mobile application does not have representatives in India and it is difficult to track down activities happening on the app," said an official.

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SC has discretion to dissolve marriage

NEW DELHI, May 1:
The Supreme Court held today it has the discretion to dissolve a marriage on the ground of "irretrievable breakdown" in exercise of its plenary power under Article 142 (1) of the Constitution and can grant divorce by mutual consent while dispensing with the 6-month waiting period mandated under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Article 142 of the Constitution deals with enforcement of decrees and orders of the apex court to do "complete justice" in any matter pending before it. As per Article 142(1), a decree passed or an order made by the apex court is executable throughout the territory of India.

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Acquire land for Ring Road under NH Act: HC

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, May 1: The High Court today held that all land required for construction of the prestigious Srinagar Ring Road be acquired under the National Highways Act.

Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Puneet Gupta while deciding a batch of petitions filed by a number of villages seeking revised compensation for acquiring their hundreds of kanals of land for the project, directed the authorities to enhance the compensation payable to the land owners by 20 percent further.

The land owners of as many as 20 villages, whose land had

DPAP expels Haji Rashid

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, May 1: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) today expelled former Jammu former MLA Haji Abdul Rashid from the primary membership of the party for alleged anti-party activities.

Rashid, who had won Assembly election in 2014 from Sopore constituency of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Congress ticket, was among the founding members of the DPAP which was formed by the former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in September last year after ending his five-decade-long association with the grand old party.

"Azad, chairman of DPAP, ordered the expulsion of Haji Rashid from the primary membership of the party for anti-party activities," DPAP general secretary RS Chib said in a statement here.

WEATHER	
JAMMU:	
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	26.6 Degree C
Min:	3.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	90.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	63.0 per cent
Sunset on Tuesday:	07:13 p.m.
Sunrise on Wednesday:	05:44 a.m.
SRINAGAR:	
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	19.8 Degree C
Min:	11.3 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	91.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	54.0 per cent
LEH:	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	16.2 Degree C
Min:	7.4 Degree C

'They lived as second class citizens till Aug 5, 2019'

LG announces ownership rights for land allotted to West Pak refugees

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, May 1: In a historic decision which will bring great relief to thousands of West Pakistani refugees, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today announced ownership rights for the refugee families for land allotted to them on their migration here from Pakistan in 1947.

"This will do away the pain of injustice inflicted upon West Pakistan refugees, a major part of which was removed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by abrogating Article 370 of the

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

Constitution of India on August 5, 2019," Sinha said after inauguration of Special Governance Camp for West Pakistani refugee families at village Chakroi in RS Pura tehsil.

Excelsior had earlier exclusively reported that the Central Government has decided to give ownership rights of land to the West Pakistani refugees where they were living since their migration.

*Rules to be simplified for payment of compensation



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at Special Governance Camp for WP refugees in R S Pura on Monday.

A formal announcement to this effect was made by the Lieutenant Governor today.

"The major problem faced by West Pakistani refugees was that they were allotted land (following their migration) but were not given ownership rights. The Government of India has given direction to Jammu and

Kashmir administration and now the West Pakistani refugees will shortly get ownership rights," Sinha said amid applause and cheers from a large gathering of refugees.

On their migration to Jammu and Kashmir, the PoJK refugees were allotted plots on their names as they were treated as State

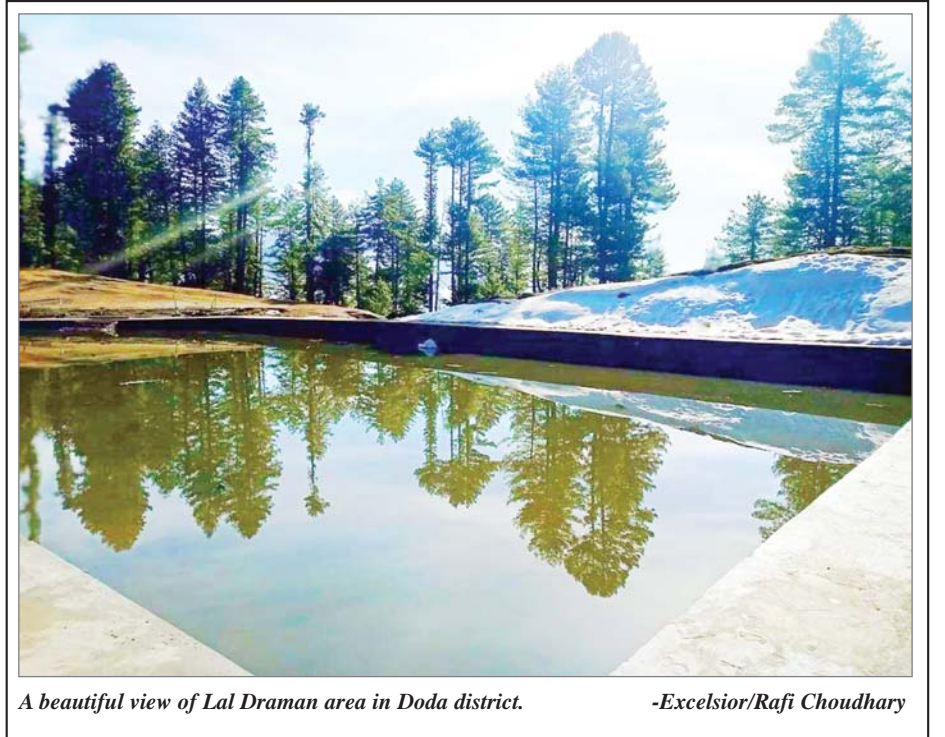
Subjects. However, the West Pakistani refugees were given 46,666 kanals of land on May 7, 1954 in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts but were not conferred with ownership rights as they were not treated as the State Subjects.

The land was mostly allotted in Pargwal island in Akhnoor, RS Pura and Bishnah tehsils in Jammu, parts of Samba and Hiranagar in Kathua district besides some other places.

Asserting that the West Pakistani refugees had to live life of "second class citizens" for years together, the Lieutenant Governor said they were deprived from participation in the elections of Legislative Assembly, Panchayats and Municipalities. Now, they can contest these elections, he added.

"They (the West Pakistani refugees) were not even eligible for J&K Government jobs and welfare schemes. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi felt their pain with sensitivity and gave all right to them by removing the hurdles," he said.

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A beautiful view of Lal Draman area in Doda district.

-Excelsior/Rafi Choudhary

Glowing tribute paid to martyr Premi

All efforts being made to eradicate terrorism, its ecosystem in J-K: Sinha

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, May 1: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today made it clear that the Government is making all efforts to eradicate terrorism and working with the firm intention to establish peace in the Union Territory of J&K.

Addressing a function here to pay homage to poet and freedom fighter, Sarwanand Koul Premi on his death anniversary, he also said that "We have got success to an extent in destroying the terror ecosystem" that has inflicted a deep wound not only on Jammu and Kashmir but the entire country.

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

"I can say one thing with confidence that we have no intention to buy peace. But we are working with the intention to establish peace (in Jammu and Kashmir). We have got success to an extent in destroying the terror ecosystem," Sinha said.

Terrorism has inflicted a deep wound not only on Jammu and Kashmir but the entire country, the Lieutenant Governor said.

"It is not the wound inflicted

on Jammu and Kashmir but on entire India. Efforts are being made to eradicate terrorism and the terror ecosystem (from Jammu and Kashmir). To what extent we have been successful, I cannot say," Sinha said.

There are people who have "infiltrated the ecosystem of gov-

said. Remembering Sarwanand Koul Premi, the LG said he was a towering man of ideas and ideals. He was undoubtedly one of the greatest writers of his time with deep commitment for upliftment of the downtrodden and weaker sections of society, Sinha said.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paying tribute to Sarwanand Koul Premi on his death anniversary at Jammu on Monday.

ernance from here to Delhi during the past 75 years", he said.

"They don't allow people to stay and work in the system. But the situation has changed. Those people who watch Jammu and Kashmir, also agree on this," the LG said.

Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir will gain back its pristine glory. "It is not only important for Jammu and Kashmir but for the whole of India," he

Jammu Kashmir is called heaven on earth, not only because of its scenic beauty, but also for great personalities such as

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Nazakat thanks Modi for opportunity to visit Assam

PM responds to Mendhar youth, says success measured by impact on people

NEW DELHI, May 1:

The success of any initiative is measured by its impact upon people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said responding to a youth from Jammu and Kashmir who hailed the Yuva Sangam youth exchange programme after visiting Assam and experiencing its diversity and culture.

Nazakat Choudhary wrote to the prime minister on April 5 thanking him for the opportunity to travel to Assam under the Yuva Sangam initiative. In response, the Prime Minister expressed hope that Choudhary would continue undertaking more such journeys in the future.

In his letter, the resident of Mendhar subdivision in the border district of Poonch termed his visit to Assam between February 24 and March 6 a life changing moment for him.

"I was not expecting a response from the Prime Minister but his letter came as the biggest surprise.... It will remain etched in my memory till my last breath," he told PTI.



A brainchild of the Ministry of Education, the Yuva Sangam youth exchange programme aims to strengthen people-to-people connections, especially between youths of different States, and introduce them to the culture and values of India. The idea of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was conceptualised to create a cultural connect between various states of India.

The initiative was launched in February and the first phase of Yuva Sangam had an overwhelming participation of 1,200 youngsters. The first batch of youngsters visited northeast India.

The Prime Minister said, "The success of any important initiative is measured by its impact upon people. The greatest sense of satisfaction is experienced by a public servant when people write to convey that a particular event has transformed their lives."

"This vigour and enthusiasm of young people like yourself to explore different regions of our

country, the Lieutenant Governor said.

"I can say one thing with confidence that we have no intention to buy peace. But we are working with the intention to establish peace (in Jammu and Kashmir). We have got success to an extent in destroying the terror ecosystem," Sinha said.

Terrorism has inflicted a deep wound not only on Jammu and Kashmir but the entire country, the Lieutenant Governor said.

"It is not the wound inflicted

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

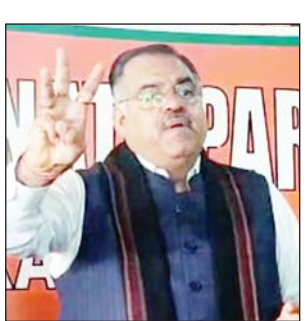
'Modi building Khushal J&K'

3 dynastic parties looted J&K, destroyed it: Chugh

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 1: Accusing three dynasties who ruled J&K for about seven decades for the turmoil that engulfed J&K in 1989, BJP national general secretary and in charge J&K, Tarun Chugh today said that these three dynasties looted the resources of the erstwhile State and left the common masses in lurch.

Addressing party activists here, Chugh said people of J&K are fed up with these three dynastic parties and their leaders so they totally hate them. "First among these dynastic parties figures name of National Conference (NC) and he questioned how Dr Farooq Abdullah, the former Chief



Minister who was the son of a teacher, could manage his education in London. Why could not a poor Kashmiri son afford to have education in a foreign country?" he asked.

He said these three dynasties including NC, Congress and Mufli looted and destroyed Kashmir for their vested political interests.

"They made one brother to fight with another brother just for their own political interests but the people have now seen through their game plan and they will no more fall in their trap", he added.

Chugh said J&K under the Narendra Modi Government is leading on the path of progress and development. "Soon Vandhaya Bharat train will reach Kashmir from Delhi. Present Delhi Government is allocating huge funds for development like construction of roads, bridges, tourism projects, hospitals, railways etc."

Chugh said people of the J&K have to go ahead and not to look backwards. They (people) want peace and progress not violence and hatred, he added.

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'Equip entire watch and ward staff with GPS'

Third Party Evaluation lays thrust on procuring latest gadgets for controlling forest fires in J&K

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 1: An agency which has conducted 3rd Party Evaluation of works carried out under J&K UT Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has laid stress on procuring sufficient equipment like Global Positioning System (GPS) and other latest gadgets keeping in view the increasing role of technology and threat from the fires to the forests.

The task of 3rd Party Evaluation was assigned to evaluate the survival rate including growth of plants and their impact on vegetative cover; to assess adherence to the procedures for plantation, infrastructure development and other activity for asset creation in conformity with the guidelines and procedures laid down under J&K UT CAMPA etc.

In its recommendation to the Government, the evaluators have mentioned that forest fire is a major threat for success of closures and Forest Department should conduct training sessions for field functionaries and other stakeholders to train them in fire fighting and effective protection measures.

Weatherman today forecast widespread rains and thunderstorm at many places in Kashmir from tomorrow.

While "gradual improvement" has been predicted from today afternoon onwards, the Meteorological department here forecast widespread light to moderate rain (snow over upper reaches) and thunderstorm with hailstorm and gusty winds at a few places on May 2-3.

From May 4-7, a MeT official here said that there was a possibility of "brief spell of rain/thunderstorm at scattered places towards evening." Overall, he said, the weather is likely to be erratic.

In the meantime, Srinagar recorded a low of 11.3°C against 10.5°C on the previous

*Rise in ground water table, increase in biodiversity noticed

"Equipment like GPS and for fire controlling should be procured more due to increasing role of technology and threat from forest fires", the recommendation said, adding "adequate manpower need to be provided for watch and ward of closures in much better way".

Stressing that soil work around the planted saplings must be carried out for enhancing the growth of plants, the evaluators said that this will help in removal of weeds, minimizing the root competition for nutrients and soil moisture

between saplings planted and the weeds. "Further, this will help in providing adequate sunlight to the plants resulted in increased photosynthesis", they added. Moreover, the selection of tree species for planting should be site specific.

"Damaged in-site Soil Moisture Conservation and fencing due to landslide and other natural reasons should be repaired on priority basis", they said, adding "training and capacity building of local community in plantation and allied activities should be paid priority attention as the same will help both in afforestation as well as conservation measures".

They have further recom-

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Farooq attacks BJP Govt for ignoring Jammu on G20 meet, claims region facing identity crisis

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, May 1: Former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference president, Dr Farooq Abdullah today launched scathing attack on the Central Government, saying it is unfortunate that G20 meetings were scheduled in Ladakh and Kashmir but not in Jammu, and slammed BJP leaders from



G20 meeting can be held in Ladakh and Kashmir but not in Jammu. Is Jammu not important? It is said that not a single BJP leader, even those who chanted 'Jammu, Jammu, Jammu and Dogra, Dogra, Dogra' raised the issue. They have taken Jammu for granted believing that it is in their pocket," Dr Farooq told media-

persons on the sidelines of a party function at NC headquarters here today.

On being asked about the public notice issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, seeking online applications from people, who have migrated to Jammu temporarily or permanently, for allotment of 336 flats under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission here, the NC president said, "It shows what we have been saying all the time that demographic change is being brought about."

"Jammu is going to lose its identity, the Dogra identity is going to disappear and that is what Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler fought against. It

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Explosives, ammunition haul in Ramban, major tragedy averted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 1: A militant hideout was busted today in a remote forest area in Ramban district with the recovery of arms and explosives including two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and a grenade launcher, averting what could have been a major tragedy.

The hideout was busted on specific information about its location in the far-flung hilly and forested area of Burzalla in Khari tehsil of Ramban district by a joint team of police and Special Operations Group (SOG) Banihal, a police spokesperson said.

The recoveries made from the hideout included an Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) thrower, two rifle grenades, a



Explosives and ammunition recovered in Ramban on Monday.

wireless set with an antenna, two IEDs with wire, a detonator, 17 rounds of AK-47 rifle, seven rounds of 9 mm pistol, one bottle containing some liquid, a 'Khakhi' jacket and a pair of black leather shoes, the spokesperson said.

No one was arrested during the search operation, he said, adding police have registered a case under First Information Report (FIR) No. 106/2023 and Section 4 Explosive Substance Act at Banihal police station and further investigation is on.

Following recoveries, police and SOG teams conducted searches in the area but no arrests were made. Search operations, however, continued.

Sources said some Over Ground Workers (OGWs)

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