

Giriraj in Leh, will visit border villages

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, May 9: Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh today reached Leh on a

four-day visit to the Union Territory of Ladakh during which he will visit border villages along the Line of Actual

Two militant associates held

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, May 9: Security forces today arrested two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) from Shopian and recovered arms and ammunition, including an IED, from them.

A police spokesman said that during the course of an investigation into a case, security forces arrested two militant associates linked to the LeT.

The spokesperson identified

Common uniform for Brig & above rank officers

NEW DELHI, May 9: In a significant move, the Army has decided to go for a common uniform for the officers of the Brigadier rank and above from August 1 irrespective of their parent cadre or regiment, military sources said today.

The decision was taken after detailed deliberations during last month's Army Commanders Conference and extensive

GAD for setting up Excellence Groups

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, May 9: In a significant decision, the General Administration Department (GAD) today called upon all Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments (HoDs) to establish Excellence Groups and make them vibrant by organizing discussions with senior officers, who have previously worked in these departments/offices.

An order to this effect was

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Couple killed in mishap

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, May 9: A couple was killed in a tragic road accident that occurred today in Nagrota area of city outskirts.

Police sources said that around 11 in the morning, a vehicle bearing registration number PB01A-1136 being driven in a rash and negligent manner by Nitin Gupta son of Pawan Gupta of Udhaywalla, from Jammu towards Udhampur, hit a Bullet

J&K adds 24 fresh COVID cases

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, May 9: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 24 new COVID-19 positive cases, 10 from Jammu division and 14 from Kashmir valley.
 As per the reports, maximum number of 5 COVID cases were reported from Jammu district, followed by 3 each from Udhampur, Bandipora and Shopian, 2 cases each from Samba, Srinagar, Pulwama and Anantnag and 1 case each from

Hybrid militants distributing sticky bombs, IEDs Rajouri College Prof, Govt teacher, UP youth's houses among 16 locations searched by NIA

Sanjeev Pargal
 JAMMU, May 9: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today targeted newly floated militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir which are working as offshoots of major outfits like Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) among oth-

locations in the Union Territory in terror conspiracy case and seized incriminating material and digital devices.

Newly floated terror outfits whose cadre were raided by the NIA during day-long raids in

Anti-Fascist Front (PAAF) among others.

These outfits are linked to Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen, Al Badr and Al-Qaeda etc.



An NIA team during search at Khiram, Anantnag on Tuesday.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

ers by carrying out raids at 16 locations including 12 in the Kashmir valley and four in the Jammu division.

In Jammu division, the NIA searched house of a College Professor at Darhal in Rajouri district, two houses of a Government teacher in Kishtwar and house and shop of an Uttar Pradesh youth running a salon in Poonch town.

This was second round of raids by the NIA in Jammu and Kashmir which came exactly after a week as in the first round on May 2, the NIA had raided 12

Jammu and Kashmir include The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (UL J&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers and People's

In Jammu division, the NIA raided the house of Professor Taseem Malik at Darhal, posted in Post Graduate College Rajouri. The NIA teams were looking for an App installed in mobile telephone of the Professor.

Srinagar to be under highest ever security blanket on G20 eve Home Secy reviews security for G20, Amarnath yatra

Fayaz Bukhari
 SRINAGAR, May 9: Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla today reviewed security ahead of the G20 tourism group meeting in Srinagar and Amarnath yatra with top security and administrative officials here at the SKICC.

An official said that Bhalla took a detailed review of the security arrangements for the G-20 event. "Director IB, DGP Dilbag Singh, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, Mukesh Singh, GOC's of 15 and 16 Corps, IGPs of CRPF and BSF GOC 15 Corps were present in the meeting," he said.

He said that the meeting discussed threadbare the security arrangements for the G20 meet-

ing and the security challenges faced after recent attacks in Poonch and Rajouri which claimed the lives of 10 Army personnel.

The official said that the plan prepared by Security Grid which entails plugging and foiling all

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

possible threats including Vehicle-borne IEDs, fidayeen attacks, sticky bomb threat, drone attacks and grenade attacks were discussed and counter strategy framed and finalized during the meeting.

He said that the deployment of MARCOS, the elite marine commandos and NSG in lakes and rivers was also discussed threadbare.

The official said that the Union Home Secretary expressed satisfaction over the decision of handing over the security of lakes and rivers to marine commandos and NSG.

He said that it was also decided that the accommodation venue and the event venue will be guarded and sanitized 10-days ahead G-20 summit and both places will have aerial surveillance through drones and snipers will be placed on high-rise buildings.

The G-20 events are slated for May 22-24 in Srinagar. This will be the first time that G-20 events will be held in Srinagar under India's presidency. J&K administration has already stated that the event was a great opportunity to showcase the tourism

Imposition of Property Tax across J&K UT Govt to shortly start discussions with elected representatives of ULBs to evolve consensus

Mohinder Verma
 JAMMU, May 9: Government will shortly start holding discussions with elected representatives of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to evolve consensus and generate awareness about the necessity of imposition of Property Tax across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, software/app is being developed by the Housing and Urban Development Department to make the process simple and easy to understand by the citizens.

Software/App being developed to make process simple

dated February 21, 2023 the Government decided to levy Property Tax on residential houses, apartments and commercial establishments within the Municipal areas with effect from April 1, 2023.

However, following hue and cry from different quarters the Housing and Urban Development Department, as announced by the Lieutenant Governor, issued notice on March 10, 2023 inviting suggestions/comments from the general public within 10 days.

"Several suggestions have been received by the department from different quarters

and in maximum suggestions thrust has been laid on holding discussion with the elected representatives of the Urban Local Bodies--Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees for evolving consensus", official sources told EXCELSIOR.

Now, the Housing and Urban Development Department has decided to shortly start holding deliberations with the elected representatives including Mayors and Deputy Mayors in order to evolve consensus and generate awareness about the

Work on, concerned agency conducting safety audit: MS Integration of SKIMS software with ABDM facing delays, slowing progress

Irfan Tramboo
 SRINAGAR, May 9: While a number of healthcare facilities across J&K have already integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM), the premier healthcare institution of the Union Territory, SKIMS Soura, has failed to integrate its software with the ABDM, causing significant delays in furthering the reach of the Government's flagship program aiming seamless healthcare service delivery.
 Excelsior has learned that SKIMS should have ensured integration with the ABDM a year ago, but on the contrary,

despite repeated reminders from the concerned department, little progress has been made, leading to a slow-paced implementation. Due to the absence of integration between SKIMS software and the ABDM ecosystem, several facilities and a seamless digital experience for stakeholders cannot be provided.

For instance, the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) cannot be generated using the patient's ABHA ID, and SKIMS will be unable to launch the Scan and Share facility, a key feature of ABDM already implemented in several hospitals across J&K including newly established GMC, Baramulla.

While other hospitals have successfully integrated with ABDM, SKIMS appears to be lagging behind and is currently conducting a security audit of its existing software, which should have been done much earlier.

On the matter, SKIMS authorities informed Excelsior that the integration process is underway, but they did not provide a timeline for its completion. They mentioned that the security audit of the existing system is being carried out by an agency selected through tendering.

Dr Farooq Jan, the Medical Superintendent of SKIMS, stated that without the security audit report, the integration process

Supporters storm Army installations Imran arrested from Islamabad HC premises in graft case

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE, May 9:

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested and bundled into a prison van by paramilitary Rangers today from the Islamabad High Court, sparking massive protests across Pakistan by his supporters who stormed the army headquarters in Rawalpindi and the Corps



Supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan stand beside burning tyres as they block a road during a protest against his arrest in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Commander's residence in Lahore.

The arrest of the 70-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician comes a day after the powerful army accused Khan of levelling baseless allegations

against a senior officer of the spy agency ISI.

The chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), who travelled from Lahore to the federal

capital Islamabad, was undergoing a biometric process at the court when the Rangers broke open the glass window and

(Contd on page 13 Col 1)

Court directs CBI IO to remain present on each hearing Farooq's appearance exempted from today's hearing in JKCA scam case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 9: The trial court today directed the Investigation Officer of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to remain present on every hearing of the case and exempted Member Parliament and president of National Conference (NC) Dr Farooq Abdullah from personal appearance in multi-crore J&K Cricket Association (JKCA) scam.

The Principal District Judge Srinagar while hearing the challan produced by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the directions of High Court

warned the CBI counsel for issuing warrants against IO in case he fails to remain absent in the case.

Court was about to issue warrants against the IO but after the assurance of the CBI counsel deferred the same and directed him to remain present on each and every hearing till arguments are advanced and completed by both the parties on charge or discharge of the accused persons including Abdullah.

When court called the name of Dr Abdullah for his presence before the court as required under law, the counsel appearing on his behalf moved application for exemption of his personal

appearance which the court accepted till next date of hearing of the case.

Court also asked both the counsel to argue the matter on next date as to whether the accused involved in the offences are charged or discharged. Other accused involved in the case were present before the court.

It is noted when it came to the fore that huge money has been misappropriated in the name of JKCA, the High Court entrusted the investigation of the case to the CBI with the direction to conclude the investigation into the matter within six

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

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