

## Tight race between BJP, Cong: Exit Polls

NEW DELHI, May 10: Most Exit Polls today predicted a close contest between the Congress and the BJP in the high-stakes Karnataka Assembly polls with many pollsters giving an edge to the grand old party.

Several forecasters also predicted a hung Assembly.

While the ABP News-C Voter Exit Poll predicted that the Congress would get 100-112 seats, BJP 83-95, JD(S) 21-29, the Republic TV-P MARQ forecast that the Congress will

## 2 LeT militant associates arrested

SRINAGAR, May 10: Security forces today arrested two Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militant associates along with ammunition from the Sopore area of Baramulla district.

An official said that during the cordon and search operations at Saidpura village of Sopore, a person was arrested, who revealed that he is working for Lashkar-e-Toiba militant outfit.

The apprehended person revealed his identity as Kaiser Manzoor Mir son of Manzoor Ahmad Mir, a resident of Saidpura.

## Destabilised Pak dangerous for world: Farooq

SRINAGAR, May 10: Former Chief Minister and Member Parliament Dr Farooq Abdullah today said that a destabilised Pakistan is dangerous for all countries, including India.

This, he said, while speaking to reporters here a day after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan was arrested in a corruption case.

"A destabilised Pakistan is dangerous for all countries including our own country. We

## 94 AEs promoted, 106 AEEs shifted

JAMMU, May 10: The Principal Secretary to Government, Public Works (R&B) Department today issued orders of promotion/ placement of 94 I/C Assistant Engineers (Civil) as I/C Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and subsequent transfer/posting of 106 I/C AEEs in the department.

Those promoted as I/C AEEs are-Qadeer Ahmed, Ghulam Mustafa, Abid Ali, Arif

## Security forces launch CASO in Poonch

POONCH, May 10: Security forces this morning launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) following movement of "suspected people" in Poonch town.

## Pic on page 4 Video on

Some locals noticed suspicious movement of some armed people in Poonch town, they said. Two schools in the town have also been shut, the sources added.

Acting on the information,

## WEATHER

JAMMU:	
Mainly clear	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	33.8 Degree C
Min:	15.8 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	51.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	34.0 per cent
Sunset on Thursday:	07.20 p.m.
Sunrise on Friday:	05.36 a.m.
SRINAGAR:	
Mainly dry	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	23.8 Degree C
Min:	6.4 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	66.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	33.0 per cent
LEH:	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	12.3 Degree C
Min:	-3.8 Degree C

# Briefed on measures taken for peace Home Secy visits PHQ, chairs officers meeting

**Fayaz Bukhari**  
 SRINAGAR, May 10: Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla today visited Police Headquarters at Srinagar where he chaired senior officers meeting and was briefed by the senior police officers about the role played by the force in fighting militancy, narcotics and dealing with law and order.



Home Secretary A K Bhalla at Police Headquarters in Srinagar on Wednesday.

The DGP and other senior officers of the force briefed the Union Home Secretary regarding the working of Jammu and Kashmir Police and measures taken for maintaining peace in the troubled region.

An official said that he was given a detailed briefing about the measures taken by the force in its fight against the militancy and the successes achieved by it during the last few years. He was also briefed about the mechanism put in place by the

force to deal with the militancy and law and order.

He said that Bhalla was also briefed by the officers about the narco-militancy which is a major challenge for the force. He was told that the narcotics is being used to fund the mili-

# NIA attaches properties of 3 accused in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, May 10: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today attached the properties of three accused in Kashmir linked with various militant organisations.



NIA attaching property at Lethpora, Awantipora on Wednesday.

The NIA attached the immovable properties of three accused in two different cases involving cadres of Hizbul Mujahideen and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The NIA statement read that in the first case, NIA attached the immovable properties of two accused, Doulat Ali Mugal and

Manigah Kupwara, and immovable property in the form of two rooms under the ownership of accused Ishaq Pala in Allora Shopian," the statement added.

The statement read that in the second case, the Agency attached the immovable property of accused Fayaz Ahmad Magray, an Over Ground Worker of Jaish-e-Mohammed and currently lodged in District Jail Jhajar, Haryana.

"The property consisted of six shops constructed over land measuring 5.5 Marlas under Survey No. 2664 Min at Lethpora, Pulwama, belonging to the accused," the statement said.

It read Fayaz was charge sheeted on 1st August 2018 for conspiring, along with local/Pakistani militants of JeM to execute a fidayeen attack on CRPF Group Centre Lethpora, Pulwama.

While Ishaq Pala, currently lodged in Central Jail Agra, was a militant of Hizbul Mujahideen/Al-Badr, Doulat Ali Mugal was an Over Ground Worker of the HM and is cur-

# Court indicts ex-PM in another graft case Imran sent to 8-day remand amid violent protests in Pak

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE, May 10: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was today sent on an eight-day remand to the anti-corruption watchdog while a sessions court indicted him in a sepa-



A policeman (R) throws a stone towards Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party activists blocking a road during a protest against the arrest of Imran Khan in Karachi on Wednesday.

rate graft case, amid violent protests that left at least seven people dead and prompted deployment of the Army in three provinces.

The 70-year-old chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was taken into custody by the paramilitary Rangers on

Tuesday on the orders of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) by barging into a room of the Islamabad High Court.

On Wednesday, Khan was

# Rajouri, Poonch attacks accused will be neutralized soon: DGP

JAMMU, May 10: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh today asserted it is difficult to say that whether the militant group involved in recent Rajouri-Poonch attacks is a newly infiltrated group or old one but it is apparently clear that these outfits are backed by Pakistan to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

In response to a question of media persons during his visit to Ramban, he said that those responsible for Rajouri and Poonch attacks will be neutralized soon.

"The terrains in Rajouri and Poonch districts vastly differ. However, both are close to the Line of Control. Whenever there is an infiltration, infiltrators try

to target security forces." Dilbag said adding that various successful operations have been carried out in the two districts.

"We have recovered weapons, drugs and even neutralized the infiltrators," the DGP said.

"At the time of Prime Minister's visit, two militants who were fidayeen were killed. Prior to that, two more militants were gunned down in Nagrota after being intercepted by alert security forces. Besides police, security forces have also thwarted weapon dropping activities through drones along border areas," Singh said.

# Strong message to Pak, China on G20 meet Centre invites non-member G20 nations, foreign NGOs to Srinagar

JAMMU, May 10: India has invited delegates from six to seven non-G20 member countries, five to six foreign based Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Tourism Secretaries from 12 States/Union Territories which have large potential of tourism to attend G20 pre-summit on Tourism Working Group (TWG) in Srinagar from May 22-24.

Union Ministers, top officials from 10-12 States to attend

briefed about the new security challenges that they are facing by use of latest weaponry by the militants and technology and the measures taken to address all this.

A police spokesman said that the meeting was attended among others by DGP Dilbag Singh, DIB, Tapan Kumar Deka, Additional Chief Secretary, R K Goyal, Special DG CID RR Swain, ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh, ADGP Headquarters PHQ, M K Sinha, IGP Traffic, Vikramjeet Singh and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

"The Union Home Secretary was received by DGP J&K and his team of officers on his arrival at PHQ," the spokesman said.

"On the occasion, DGP on behalf of all ranks of J&K Police presented mementos to the Union Home Secretary and DIB as a token of love and respect," he said.

**Sanjeev Pargal**  
 GK Reddy and Union Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh will also attend the meeting on May 23 which is scheduled to be held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) Srinagar.

Official sources told the Excelsior that all non-G20 countries and foreign NGOs which have been extended an invitation by the Central Government for attending Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar have given their consent to participate in the biggest ever international event in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India which granted special status to erstwhile State and its bifurcation into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh on August 5, 2019.

"The foreign NGOs invited to the meeting have been working in different fields including tourism," sources said, adding

their representation in the G20 meeting will help boost tourism in Jammu and Kashmir in future as they too will spread a message along with G20 member and non-member nations that there is peace in the Union Territory including the Valley which will encourage tourists from abroad to visit J&K.

Non-member G20 countries invited to the meeting will also facilitate tourism in Jammu and Kashmir besides sending message of their friendship with India.

While Pakistan is not a member of G20, China has boycotted G20 and Y20 meetings in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh and is unlikely to attend Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar. Pakistan had also approached some Islamic nations not to attend three-day Y20 pre-summit in Leh in the Union Territory of Ladakh but all these nations sent their representatives for the meeting.

# JERC fixes Rs 100 crore threshold limit for development of transmission projects in J&K

JAMMU, May 10: In order to reduce burden on UT Government finances and ensure execution of projects in cost effective manner, the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for J&K and Ladakh has fixed threshold limit of Rs 100 crore for development of transmission projects in J&K UT above which all new intra-UT transmission projects irrespective of voltage level will be developed by the Government through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding.

# 123 Langars given permission this year

SASB gives deadline for clearance of twin tracks to holy cave by June 15

Manigah Kupwara, and immovable property in the form of two rooms under the ownership of accused Ishaq Pala in Allora Shopian," the statement added.

The statement read that in the second case, the Agency attached the immovable property of accused Fayaz Ahmad Magray, an Over Ground Worker of Jaish-e-Mohammed and currently lodged in District Jail Jhajar, Haryana.

"The property consisted of six shops constructed over land measuring 5.5 Marlas under Survey No. 2664 Min at Lethpora, Pulwama, belonging to the accused," the statement said.

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**Mohinder Verma**  
 In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 181 read with Sections 61, 66 and 86 of the Electricity Act, 2003, The J&K UT Transmission Utility has been directed by the Commission to frame the guidelines for the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding within three months and notify the same after the approval of the Commission.

"With the rising demand of electricity in the UT of J&K, it is imperative to make the transmission system more efficient, cost effective and technology driven and in this regard there is a need to adopt best practices and encourage competition in transmission

sector", the Commission said, adding "it has been recognized that the competition in transmission business will bring technology innovation, reduction in tariff and timely completion of projects".

Moreover, the investment from private players in transmission projects will also help the UT Government to divert funds for other priority sector. "As intra-State/UT transmission system has major share in the transmission sector in the country, adoption of Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding will effectively reduce burden on UT Government finances as well as reduce tariff of intra-State/UT

# J&K reports 15 new COVID cases

JAMMU, May 10: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 15 new COVID-19 positive cases, 9 from Jammu division and 6 from Kashmir valley.

# Missed deadlines for Smart City projects raise concerns

Suhail Bhat

**Avtar Bhat**  
 JAMMU, May 10: As the two-month long holy Amarnath Ji yatra starts on July 1 this year, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) which is managing the annual yatra has given a deadline up to June 15 to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for clearance of both the tracks.

A high level meeting was held at Srinagar today by the Board representatives and officers of civil administration with BRO Engineers in which the yatra arrangements were discussed with respect to snow clearance of tracks on both sides, their widening and maintenance, official sources said.

Sources said the meeting was chaired by Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha which among others was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner

Jammu, Ramesh Kumar joined the meeting online. Besides, the meeting was attended by Second in chief, BRO, District Development Commissioners of all concerned districts, Director Animal Husbandry and Labour Commissioner, J&K.

Sources said the meeting discussed the logistic arrangements with concerned District

Development Commissioners of respective districts including arrangements regarding additional holding capacity along the National Highway from Lakhanpur in Jammu region to twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in Ganderbal and Anantnag districts of Kashmir valley.

Sources said the SASB authorities discussed about increasing of additional capacity with DCs concerned in case of any emergency situation during yatra period. In this regard the schools, hostels etc in the vicinity of highway can be utilized for boarding and lodging pilgrims. Besides, the fool proof security arrangements, sanitation and water

# Reviews security scenario of Ramban

JAMMU, May 10: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh today asserted it is difficult to say that whether the militant group involved in recent Rajouri-Poonch attacks is a newly infiltrated group or old one but it is apparently clear that these outfits are backed by Pakistan to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

# Restoration works underway in Srinagar as part of Smart City project

Suhail Bhat

He said in Rajouri-Poonch areas which are close to LoC, more than half of dozen operations were carried out in which several infiltrators were killed and dropping of weapons and drugs were foiled.

The DGP added that J&K Police along with other security agencies are working in tandem to identify and eliminate the militants involved in disturbing peace in J&K.

He said that 'hartal calls' are now history in Kashmir and there is all-round development that has been benefiting all sections of society and different sectors including the tourism industry.

Earlier, Dilbag visited

SRINAGAR, May 10: The authorities responsible for the development of Smart City projects in Srinagar have failed to meet two consecutive deadlines for completing various crucial works, causing concern among stakeholders about the timely completion of these projects before the G20 event.

The works involve the installation of footpaths, tiling, drainage systems, underground facilities, landscaping, blacktopping, and signages and lighting for prominent and heritage buildings. The stakeholders have expressed concerns over the delays in completing these projects before the event and have urged that the work be finished promptly to ensure that the city is fully prepared to welcome visitors from around the world.

Originally scheduled for completion on April 15, the deadline for the works was extended to April 30, but the authorities have failed to meet