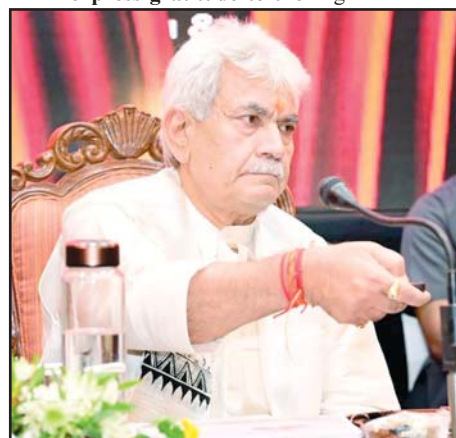


9 SWM facilities in Kashmir, Polo View market inaugurated Srinagar markets to resemble Delhi, Mumbai soon: LG

Fayaz Bukhari
 SRINAGAR, May 12: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha today said that the markets in Srinagar will soon resemble those in metro cities, after inaugurating the Polo View Market, redeveloped under the Smart City project.

projects are taken up, but the traders cooperated with the authorities.
 "I express gratitude to the



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating projects in Srinagar on Friday.

"The Polo View market has been redesigned under the Smart City project. The electric wires and telecom fiber have all been laid underground. The market can be kept open even during the night," Sinha told reporters.

The shopping centre known for handicrafts and handloom products has been transformed into a premium pedestrian market by Srinagar Smart City Limited.

"The endeavour to make Srinagar look like Delhi, Chandigarh, or other big cities is on. The people who have come here would have felt that they were in Delhi or Mumbai and not in Srinagar. You will get to see many more markets like this in the coming days," he added.
 Sinha said the locals face difficulties wherever infrastructure

traders who cooperated. I am sure it will increase the business here. This is just a start, and in the days to come, the Smart City project will develop many such markets at Residency Road, Lal Chowk," he said.
 The LG also visited the temple at Abi Guzar that was reno-

ated recently.
 Later in the day, Sinha inaugurated nine solid waste management facilities and other developmental projects of Urban Local Bodies in the Kashmir.
 "These projects were executed on modern scientific lines under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), the Flagship scheme of Government of India," he said.
 "Acting upon the clarion call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the urban areas Garbage Free, the Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir geared up for establishment of facilities for Scientific disposal of waste. Besides, financial support & regular reviews by the J&K Government has enabled the Urban Local Bodies

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

HC sends notice to Govt on plea challenging property tax

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 12: The High Court today issued notice and sought reply from the Government to the plea challenging incorporation of provisions in the Municipal Corporation Act by implementing the property tax in Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea has been filed by one Hanan Moumin Khan challenging the constitutionality of Section 96 of J&K Re-organization Act 2019 under the garb of said Section few provisions have been incorporated vide notification dated 21.2.2023 issued by the Principal Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, whereby 'property tax' was implemented within the Municipal jurisdiction of Srinagar city.

The petitioner through his counsel submitted that the amendments carried out in the J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 are violative of provisions of Constitution of India, and therefore indulgence of the Court for the protection and enforcement of fundamental, Constitutional, legal & statutory rights as vested by law & Constitution in the matter of

occupation, possession, exercise and enjoyment of right to property of the petitioner.

"The Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 read with notifications vide S.O 49 dated 12.02.2021 & S.O 86 dated 21.02.2023 issued respectively by Principal Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department being violative of Articles provisions of Constitution of India", he argued.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul after hearing the counsel for the petition issued notice of four weeks to Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice Government of India, Secretary J&K and Ladakh Affairs Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi and Principal Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department J&K UT for filing of reply to the petition within four weeks.

He added that the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 has been amended and repealed by incorporating new substantive provisions of law in the said Act which were (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Ladakh gears up for 3 major elections LAHDC Kargil, 193 Panchayats, two Municipalities to complete term soon

Process to be set in motion by UT Admn shortly

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, May 12: The Union Territory Administration and Election Department of Ladakh have geared up to hold three major elections in next few months including prestigious polls to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil, 193 Panchayats and two Municipalities in the UT.

Twenty-six member LAHDC Kargil is completing its five-year term in August while 193 Panchayats---98 in Kargil district and 95 in Leh district and one Municipality each in the two districts will be due for elections in September-October, official sources told the Excelsior.

An announcement for elections to the LAHDC Kargil is expected to be made by the Election Department in the month of July, they said adding the UT Administration will take a decision on conduct of Municipal and Panchayat polls

before their dates are announced.
 LAHDC Kargil has strength of 30 Councilors, 26 of whom are elected while four are nominated by the administration. All 30, however, have the voting rights.
 LAHDC Kargil is presently ruled by National Conference with Feroz Khan as Chairman-cum-CEC. However, a BJP Councillor has also been made the Executive Councillor.

In August 2018 elections, National Conference had emerged single largest party with 10 Councilors, followed by Congress eight, PDP two, BJP one and Independents five. With nomination of four Councilors, the BJP strength had gone up to five. Initially, NC and Congress joined hands to form the City Government with 18 Councillors but later the NC parted ways with Congress and got majority with the support of Independents and BJP members.

As both National Conference and Congress are part of the Kargil Democratic

Alliance (KDA) now, which is spearheading agitation along with Leh Apex Body (LAB) for Statehood, Sixth Schedule, two Parliamentary seats and employment for Ladakh, a possibility of alliance between the two parties for LAHDC Kargil elections can't be ruled out.

National Conference leader Feroz Khan, who is Chairman-cum-CEC of LAHDC Kargil since its formation in September 2018, has also served as Minister in NC-Congress coalition Government in erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and could lead the NC campaign in the elections.

LAHDC Leh is being ruled by the BJP for second consecutive term.

LAHDC Leh had come into effect in 1995 while LAHDC Kargil came into existence in 2003. Both the Councils have five-year term.

Sources said the delimitation of 26 constituencies of LAHDC Kargil is unlikely this time.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Girls outshine boys in class 10, 12 results

NEW DELHI, May 12:

Girls continued to outshine boys in CBSE class 10 and 12 exams while the pass percentage and the number of students scoring above 90 and 95 per cent marks dipped compared to last year.

CBSE officials said a comparison cannot be drawn with last year's statistics as the aca-

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Imran gets blanket relief

ISLAMABAD, May 12:

In a major relief to embattled Imran Khan, the Islamabad High Court today granted him protective bail for two weeks in a corruption case and barred the authorities from arresting the former Pakistan premier in any case registered anywhere in the country until Monday.

Three different benches of (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

NHIDCL gives April 2025 completion target 3rd bridge coming up over river Chenab at Akhnoor on Jammu-Poonch highway

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, May 12: A third bridge is coming up shortly over river Chenab, just closer to the existing concrete bridge at Bypass Akhnoor on Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway.

Official sources told the 'Excelsior' that the work on this strategically important bridge is being launched shortly as the work contract of this bridge-cum-road project worth Rs 102 crores has been allotted to a Chandigarh based private construction company.

A total 3.75 kms road project from Khati Chowk, about 300 meters before main concrete bridge over river Chenab up to Hanuman Chowk, along with this bridge has been allotted to

M/s V K Gupta Constructions, a Chandigarh based firm.

This will be four-lane highway, as a part of Rs 5100 crores Jammu-Poonch four-lane highway project under Prime Ministers' Package in the Jammu and Kashmir. Just 24 months time has been given to the construction company by the NHIDCL for completion of the road and bridge over river Chenab, towards downstream of the existing concrete bridge on Bypass road.

General Manager, Projects, NHIDCL, Col (Retd) P S Sangwan when contacted said that a DPR worth Rs 117 crores was prepared by the NHIDCL for this prestigious project including third bridge over river

Chenab at Akhnoor and about 3.75 kms 4-lane road up to Hanuman Chowk from Khati Chowk. A double lane bridge with foot paths on both sides with the approximate cost of Rs 45 crores will be constructed by the company. It will be 350 mt span bridge with 100 mt approach roads and 16 mts width, he added.

Replying to a question, the GM Projects said that about 30 ft road is being acquired. The notices to the affected parties/ people including Ministry of Defence (Concerned Army Units) has been served to vacate land. The process of disbursement

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

DB stays WC judgment on new VDG Scheme

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 12: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotsiwar Singh and Justice Rahul Bharti has stayed the judgment passed by Writ Court quashing the new Village Defence Group (VDG) Scheme of the Government to the extent

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

SIU carries out multiple raids in Ramban

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, May 12: The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) along with the district

■ Pic on page 4

police Ramban carried out raids at multiple locations in the areas of Banihal and Ramsoo falling under the jurisdiction of Sub (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Rule 187 can be invoked within probation period only Stigmatic termination order cannot be passed without detailed enquiry: DB

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 12: In a significant judgment, a Division Bench of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh comprising Chief Justice N Kotsiwar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal has held that stigmatic order of termination of any employee cannot be passed without conducting detailed enquiry and providing an opportunity of being heard.

It has further held that powers under Rule 187 of J&K Police Manual can be invoked only against a probationer within a period of probation---three years from the date of enrolment and not to a permanent employee.

passed in a writ petition filed by one Shamim Ahmad, constable in Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, seeking quashment of judgment and order dated July 1, 2021 passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Jammu by virtue of which the petition against the order of discharge was dismissed without following principle of natural justice. The petitioner further sought quashment of order dated October 31, 2009 by virtue of which, the petitioner has been discharged without enquiry and without following principle of natural justice.

After hearing Advocate Sarfaraz Hamid Rather for the petitioner and Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli for the UT of J&K, the Division Bench

observed that the petitioner was discharged from the services from the date he remained absent---7th September, 1994 in terms of Rule 187 of J&K Police Manual by attaching stigma to the order on the ground that "he had not proved to be a good police officer and his conduct didn't remain satisfactory during the probation period".

"In the earlier writ petition the order impugned dated 2nd November, 1994 passed by the respondent stood quashed and the respondents were given liberty to pass orders either under Rule 187 of J&K Police Manual in case they so choose or conduct regular enquiry", the DB said, adding "however, the respondents without conducting (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

End protest after assurance Rohingyas create trouble at Holding Centre Hiranagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 12: Rohingyas prisoners lodged in Holding Centre at Hiranagar Sub Jail in Kathua district for last about two years created uproar and resorted to protests inside the detention centre demanding their immediate release.

Reports said 269 Rohingyas have been lodged in Hiranagar Holding Centre and they started protest demanding their release.
 They refused to take food till they are released.
 Senior Jail and police offi-

cials rushed to the spot and talked to the Rohingyas. They assured them that their case has been taken up with the Central Government and whenever orders are received, they will be released or deported.

The Rohingyas ended protests on the assurance of Jail authorities and took food again.

It may be mentioned here that Rohingyas were detained at Holding Centre at Hiranagar Sub Jail about two years back for the purpose of deportation to their country Myanmar.

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