

**Sinha interacts with civil society groups**

## PM provided powerful platform of G20 meeting in J&K : LG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 18: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today interacted with the members of civil society groups, PRIs and representatives of various organizations and discussed with them the upcoming G20 meeting at Srinagar.

"G20 meeting is a historic opportunity for J&K UT to showcase its vibrant culture, traditions and tourism potential. It belongs to all the citizens and they should come forward and be a part of this historic event," Sinha said.

He also urged the civil society members to take advantage of this opportunity and encourage citizens, tourism and industry stakeholders to contribute to its grand success.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing a powerful platform of G20 meeting for connecting local and global aspirations.

"G20 meeting will give a new height to J&K's growth, boost to limitless potential of

tourism & hospitality sector and enhanced economic prosperity to all sections of society. It is also an opportunity for handicraft sector to script a bright future," he said.

Addressing the members of civil society groups, Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with members of civil society in Srinagar on Thursday.

He talked about J&K's journey on the path of accelerated development and the remarkable progress registered in various sectors since 2019.

"Never before had infrastructure development taken place at the kind of speed witnessed in the past 4 years. We are marching forward with the

common vision of peace, progress and prosperity. Let us all re-dedicate ourselves to make this event a memorable one with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," said the Lt Governor.

Speaking on the revival of the tourism sector, he said the sector was affected adversely due to COVID pandemic but now it is recovering fast. "We are making several interventions to give new momentum to tourism and hospitality sector," he added.

Connectivity is the most important aspect not only for the tourism but also for overall development. More than 1.50 lakh crore rupees worth highways & tunnel projects are being executed and the improved road & rail connectivity have brought J&K closer to the world, Sinha said.

The Lt Governor also commended the contribution & cooperation of all stakeholders, civil

## High alert ahead of G20 meet NSG conducts sanitization, several schools shut

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, May 18: Security has been put on high alert ahead of G20 in Kashmir with National Security Guards and Marine Commandos deployed in Srinagar for the security of the summit meeting to be held next week.

The elite National Security Guard Commandos today carried out an area domination and security sanitization exercise in Lal Chowk area of the city here ahead of the G20 summit next week.

Police and CRPF personnel accompanied a posse of NSG personnel during the exercise. The security personnel checked the hotels at the Lal Chowk area, spoke to their owners and took some information from them.

The Marine Commandos were also seen patrolling and sanitizing the Dal lake for the second consecutive day today.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar today said that elaborate security arrangements have been made ahead of G-20. "We have made elaborate security arrangements. A three-tier

security cover will remain to ensure incident free events. Guests will come on May 22 and leave on May 25," he said.

Kumar said that police will put in place anti-drone equipment with the help of NSG and the Army. "Police are fully capable to deal with any threat in water bodies but since Marine Commandos were available, they have been deployed in Dal Lake and other bodies," he said, adding that police, CRPF and SSB teams will also be deployed in strength to foil any possible threats by militants.

To a query whether there would be any restrictions, ADGP Kumar said that no curbs would be placed anywhere. "Some rumour mongers are spreading rumours about curbs. Strict action will be taken against such elements," he said. The Kashmir police chief said that all the security teams have been properly briefed to ensure general people don't face any inconvenience during the G20 event.

Marine commandos have already been deputed in the famous Dal Lake while as NSG

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## Out of 51, Jammu to get one big rally to be addressed by PM or HM PM to address people at 7500 polling booths in J&K on Mukherjee's martyrdom day on June 23

Sanjeev Pargal

### \*Bugle for Lok Sabha elections to be sounded

JAMMU, May 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be addressing the people right up to booth level on June 23, the martyrdom day of RSS ideologue Shyama Prasad Mukherjee who sacrificed his life for 'Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan' (One constitution, One head and One symbol) in Kashmir in 1953, which will be start of the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign for Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held in April-May 2024.

Modi will address people through video conferencing at nearly 7500 polling booths in Jammu and Kashmir and a total of 10 lakh booths across the country, the party leaders told the Excelsior.

His address from New Delhi will be streamed live at about 5200 polling booths in Jammu region and around 2300 in Kashmir division, they said, adding this is for the first time that the Prime Minister will directly address the people at booth levels in the Union Territory.

As per the party leaders, the Prime Minister will address the people at nearly 10 lakh booths across the country on June 23. This is being seen as the biggest ever exercise by the BJP and could well be start of election campaign by the party for 2024 Parliamentary elections.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was martyred in Kashmir after being jailed following his arrest at Lakhnampur when he wanted to enter Jammu and Kashmir without permit in support of his slogan for implementation of 'Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan' which wasn't applicable in Jammu and Kashmir which had then separate Prime Minister, Constitution and Flag.

It was on August 5, 2019 that Narendra Modi-led BJP Government abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution of India and completely fulfilled the dream of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

It was for the first time that a major project in Jammu and Kashmir--the Chenani-Nashri-

tunnel--was named after Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on the intervention of Union Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and MP of the area Dr Jitendra Singh though the then Chief Minister and BJP ally Mehbooba Mufti was reluctant to do so.

"Now it will be a befitting tribute to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee that the Prime Minister will reach out to the people right up to booth level at 10 lakh booths across the country including 7500 in Jammu and Kashmir on the day Mukherjee sacrificed his life for the cause of J&K," BJP president Ravinder Raina said.

He said out of 51 big rallies proposed by the BJP leadership next month in the country on completion of nine years of Narendra Modi Government, Jammu and Kashmir unit will get one which will either be addressed by the Prime Minister or the Home Minister, in

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

### Deviation viewed seriously by authorities

## Several officers not strictly following Govt instructions on filing APRs online

\*Admn Secys asked to ensure filing in electronic mode only

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 18: Several Government servants are not strictly following the instructions on recording of Annual Performance Reports (APRs) on Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) despite explicit and repeated directions from the General Administration Department and this deviation has been viewed seriously by the authorities as the same stifles the very purpose of the guidelines.

In order to streamline the processing of Annual Performance Reports (APRs) in respect of Gazetted Officers of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) was made live from September

15, 2022. The intent of switching over of Annual Performance Appraisal Reports from manual mode to online system was to ensure ready access of the Annual Performance Report by the authorized users, preventing loss of APRs in transition, enhanced transparency, better monitoring and timely completion of performance appraisals.

For recording of Annual Performance Appraisal Reports on SPARROW in respect of Gazetted Officers for the financial year 2022-23, detailed instructions were issued vide Circular No. 12-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated March 28, 2023. However, it has been observed that despite repeated instructions, several Gazetted officers are still getting their APRs processed in the offline mode, which stifles the very purpose of

elaborate set of instructions/guidelines notified on the subject and the electronic SPARROW window, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department Sanjeev Verma said.

Taking serious note of this deviation, the General Administration Department has impressed upon all the Gazetted Officers to record Annual Performance Reports through online mode only, strictly in accordance with the rules notified by the Government from time to time.

Moreover, all the Administrative Secretaries have been asked to ensure that APRs in case of Gazetted Officers are not processed manually and are filed in electronic mode only, on the designated SPARROW

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## 4-day impasse ends, Sidda to be CM, DKS Dy

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, May 18:

The Congress today named Siddaramaiah as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka and state

■ Pic on page 4

PCC chief D K Shivakumar, a strong contender for the top

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

## US court approves extradition of Tahawwur to India

NEW YORK, May 18:

In a significant legal victory for India, a US court has approved the extradition of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana to India where he is sought for his involvement in the horrific 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The ruling comes just over a

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## IEDs, pistol seized in Mendhar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 18: Army and Special Operations Group (SOG) today busted a terror hideout and seized explosive

■ Pic on page 4

materials at village Kasbalari near Kagyan Mohalla in Mankote tehsil of Mendhar area

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## Suspicious ISD calls raise security concerns

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 18: Scores of individuals in Jammu and Kashmir receiving calls and WhatsApp messages from suspicious international mobile numbers in a bid to spread rumours about upcoming G-20 events has emerged as the latest security challenge in the Union

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## Police to arrest terrorists from Imran's house

LAHORE, May 18:

A large number of Punjab police personnel today surrounded the house of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan in Lahore and may launch a security operation any time to arrest the "terrorists" allegedly holed up in his residence as the Government's 24-hour deadline

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## Director Colleges writes to NTA for corrective measure Govt intervenes as J&K students allotted CUET exam centres outside UT

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, May 18: The Government has intervened as scores of Jammu Kashmir students are in distress because of National Testing Agency (NTA) designating their exam centres for the scheduled Common University Entrance Test (CUET) outside the Union Territory.

Taking cognizance of the peculiar situation and vociferous resentment against the same at the time of scheduled G-20 event in Kashmir, the J&K Higher Education Department has taken up the matter with the National Testing Agency (NTA) and requested that students from J&K be re-allotted centres in twin cities of Srinagar and

Jammu to take them out of this discomfort.

"We have formally apprised the NTA top authorities seeking necessary action and if no corrective measures are taken, the Higher Education Department will adopt alternative measure for ensuring that J&K students are not deprived of admission in the Union Territory colleges," Director Colleges, Prof Yasmeen Ashai told the Excelsior.

Pertinent to mention that the Common University Entrance Test 2023 for admission in various colleges across the country, including J&K, is scheduled to be held from May 21 to 28 for which various centres have been established in different parts of the country. In J&K, these online test centres have been established in Jammu and

Srinagar Capital cities.

However, thousands of these CUET aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir have been allotted online test centres outside J&K UT without their consent for the same thus putting them at great inconvenience. A number of such students from Jammu Kashmir have been allotted exam centres in Punjab, Haryana and even in Andhra Pradesh and other States thus making it almost impossible for maximum of them to appear in the test because of unaffordable air fare, tough hilly terrain and disturbed highways.

This has come as a big shock to these aspirants as they were not expecting that for a normal

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

### Meeting on joint research, StartUps

## PoJK people not happy being in Pakistan: Dr Jitendra Singh

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, May 18: Union Minister of State with Independent charge of Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh while criticising Pakistan for opposing G20 Session said it is not something

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

new for Pakistan as the neighboring country has been doing this since 1947.

Talking to reporters here today on the sidelines of a high level inter institutional meeting, he said the greatest defect with



Pakistan and its leadership is that it failed to compromise with the fact that J&K is an integral part of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that "impediments were created in India's Gaganyaan Mission due to COVID pandemic earlier and we could not keep the deadline." He, however, said that Scientists

Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is so grave at present that the people are fed up with Pakistan and they want to be part of Narendra Modi led India as they are not happy to remain with Pakistan. He said India led by Narendra Modi has progressed a lot in last nine years and entire world knows that India is on top. In response to a question on PoJK, the Union Minister said that world knows about India's stand and there is nothing hidden.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that "impediments were created in India's Gaganyaan Mission due to COVID pandemic earlier and we could not keep the deadline." He, however, said that Scientists

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## Rijju removed as LM, replaced by Meghwal

NEW DELHI, May 18:

In a sudden development, Kiren Rijju was removed as Union Law Minister today after less than a two-year

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## Photojournalist among 4 drug peddlers held

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 18: Police today arrested four drug peddlers in North Kashmir and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party of Police Post Delina at a checkpoint

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

## Robbers loot Rs one lakh at gun point

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, May 18: Three masked youth looted Rs one lakh from Kajaria Hardware Store at gun point at Chadwal near, here late last night.

According to reports, three motorcycle borne youth wearing masks, carrying two country made pistols and sharp edged weapons

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## 3 booked under PSA in Baramulla

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 18: Three people were booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Baramulla district for their alleged involvement in anti-national activities, police said today.

Police obtained formal detention orders against

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## Govt sets up 6-member Panel HC seeks action plan for tourists, Amarnath yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 18: The High Court has sought instruction from the Government with regard to proposed plan of action in respect of requirements for tourists and smooth pilgrimage for upcoming Amarnath Yatra and developmental works of the resort.

These directions followed by the Division Bench of Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Kazmi while hearing a PIL on protection and preservation of Sonamarg resort. Court directed for listing of matter on Monday (May 22) in order to enable the Government

Counsel to take instruction from the authorities on all these issues for reference of the court.

Government Counsel-Ilyas Laway has informed the court that a committee in this regard has been constituted in order to formulate a detailed blueprint of Tourism Dev Authority Sonamarg for carrying out the developmental works and upcoming Yatra within the jurisdiction of the resort.

The committee includes Additional Development Commissioner, Ganderbal (Chairman), Chief Executive Officer (Member Secretary), Executive Engineer (Member), Tourist Officer Sonamarg

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 See Obituaries on Page Nos 7 & 13  
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