

### AC approves Disaster Recovery Centre

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 25: In a major decision, the Administrative Council (AC) which met here today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha gave its assent to the establishment of Disaster Recovery Centre outside of J&K Seismic Zone along with its upkeep and maintenance for 5 years.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, said...

### Special Tribunal not toothless body: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 25: The High Court, in a significant judgment, has observed that the J&K Special Tribunal is not a toothless body to deal with committing violations to its orders and recommended that to make its function more effective, amendment is required to be made in the Act, of 1988.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar has held these recommendations...

### Govt to install call blocking system in jails

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 25: In a significant move, the Government has approved installation of towers of harmonious call blocking system in all 14 jails of the Union Territory to prevent unauthorized communications from them.

An order to this effect was issued today by Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department RK Goyal.

### Govt crackdown soon on delay in power projects

NEW DELHI, May 25:

Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh today said the Government will crackdown on developers of power projects, who miss the scheduled commercial date of operation or deadline to complete the project.

Addressing a CII conference, Singh said the electricity generation capacity addition is a...

### HC refuses to quash PSA of terrorists' sympathizer

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 25: The High Court has refused to quash the detention under PSA of Saqib Hussain Mir, who used to motivate people for anti-national activities.

On 21st June, 2022, the detenu provoked the youth of a particular community to join Jihad as his father, who had been booked by Peer Mitha Police in case FIR No. 42/2019...

### Gurdaspur - Jammu Tawi Gas Pipeline Project

### PNGRB to shortly evaluate technical bids; IOCL, GAIL among bidders

Bivek Mathur

JAMMU, May 25: The process to evaluate the technical bids received from the interested bidders to develop the Gurdaspur-Jammu Tawi Gas Pipeline Project (GJPL) is likely to start shortly.

Md Tanweer Akhter, Joint Advisor (Authorisation), Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), told the Excelsior that a Technical Evaluation Committee comprising officials of PNGRB shall be constituted shortly by the board that will examine the technical bids received from the interested bidders and accordingly issue the authorisation in favour of one of...

## 'People experiencing peace, normalcy, development' Exporters of terror taken aback with success of G20 meeting in Srinagar: LG

\*Stone pelting, bombing, terror incidents now history

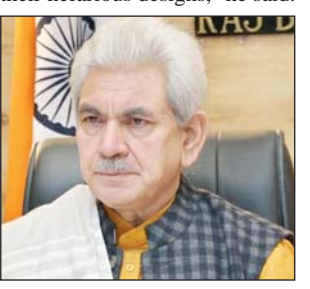
### Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, May 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said the exporters of terror, a reference towards Pakistan, have been taken aback with the success of G20 meeting in Srinagar and maintained that displeasure of the neighbour won't make any difference because the people of Jammu and Kashmir are sick and tired of their nefarious designs.

In an interview to Newsweek magazine, Sinha said all major G20 nations supported the idea of holding an international event in Jammu and Kashmir and naturally when event of such magnitude is organized in J&K, some people were bound to have problems with it.

"The exporters of terror (a reference towards neighbouring Pakistan) were obviously taken aback. They made threatening statements which are not acceptable to any peace-loving nation.

But their displeasure is not going to make any difference as the people of Jammu and Kashmir are sick and tired of their nefarious designs," he said.



Taking a dig at Pakistan, the Lieutenant Governor said it should first worry about the situation in their own troubled country instead of interfering in our internal matters.

Describing presidency of G20 as a matter of pride for India, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured that all regions get due representation while deciding venues of the meetings. And Jammu and Kashmir being an integral

part of India could not have been left behind, he added.

Responding to a question on whether security for G20 meeting in Srinagar was too high or too little, Sinha said: "It was just appropriate".

Asserting that situation in Jammu and Kashmir during last three years has changed a lot, he said the people have contributed to this as they don't want replication of the past situation when educational institutions and shops would remain shut.

"Now, Jammu and Kashmir has moved on and so have our people. They just want peace, normalcy, development and prosperity which they are experiencing now," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On security, he said they had to be careful because of threats by responsible people of the neighbouring country. "We couldn't risk safety of our foreign dignitaries and delegates".

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan's Foreign Minister

Bilawal Bhutto had issued threats to disrupt G20 meeting in Srinagar.

However, Sinha maintained that across the globe tight security is maintained for all such meetings.

"Maintaining adequate security for our guests was our duty. At the same time, we ensured that our people are not subjected to inconvenience. And this was evident as normal life went on across the City (during the event) which a few years ago would have been unimaginable," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that many countries will withdraw their adverse advisories for their residents on visiting Kashmir after successful G20 event.

"What happened in the past caused fear in the minds of some nations but their perspective is bound to change after G20 meeting," he said, adding in 'New

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

### Illegals in allotment of contracts, appointments since 2010

## Govt takes serious note, seeks lists from all Deptts within one month

### Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 25: Taking serious note of the illegalities committed in the allotment of contracts and making of appointments during the period between 2010 and 2023, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has sought detailed reports in this regard from all the departments within one month for initiating necessary action.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that in a recent high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar

### Stern action to be taken against erring officials

Mehta, the observations made by the Accountant General J&K during the extensive audit of the departments came up for detailed discussion.

Accordingly, the Chief Secretary directed all the Administrative Secretaries to frame lists of all contracts given on nomination/single source basis with effect from 2010 to 2023. The directions have also been given for sub-

mission of lists of backdoor appointments made with effect from 2010 to 2023 and the number of projects completed during this period.

"These lists should be furnished to the office of the Chief Secretary treating the matter as most urgent in any case not later than a month", read an official communication, the copy of which is available with EXCELSIOR.

According to the sources, the Government, through Accountant General, has come to know that large number of contracts were given on nomination/ single source basis and without following the guidelines

in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir particularly in the Public Health Engineering, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development Departments and Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation and Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation.

Similarly, several backdoor appointments were made in the Urban Local Bodies which fall under the administrative control of Housing and Urban Development Department, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Secretariats in blatant

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

### Imran, wife barred from leaving Pak

ISLAMABAD, May 25:

Pakistan's Government has barred former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife along with at least 80 people from leaving the country, a media report said today.

Khan and several top leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party are facing cases following the violence after he was arrested on May 9 in a corruption case.

"The Federal Government has decided to add the names of 80 people, including PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi, to the no-fly list," the local Samaa News channel reported.

However, there was no official confirmation on the development from Khan's party.

In addition to Khan and

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)



A farmer family busy in planting paddy saplings at Hakripora in South Kashmir's Puvama district on Thursday. -Excelsior/Younis Khaliq

### Rains lash J&K, hailstorm wreaks havoc

## 4 members of nomad family die as tree falls on tent in Kishtwar

### Gopal Sharma

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, May 25: Four members of a nomad family died after a tree during heavy rain and windstorm fell on their tent in remote Keshwan forest area of Kishtwar last night while dead body of a woman who was washed away in Betar river near Poonch last evening was recovered today.

Official sources said the incident took place in Bhalna forest area of remote Keshwan belt, about 45 kms from Kishtwar, adding that high-speed winds and heavy rainfall uprooted the big tree.

"A pine tree fell on a tent pitched by the Tribal (Bakerwal) family in the forest belt. In this tragic incident, four family members lost their lives early today," SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

The family was going towards Dachhan area with its sheep and goats and had halted in Bhalna forest due to heavy rains, he added.

Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav said that four members of a tribal

### Washed away woman's body recovered

family including three women, died on the spot. "A police team immediately rushed to the spot and started rescue operation," Yadav said, adding that the bodies are being taken to Kishtwar Hospital for legal formalities.

\* Pic on page 4  
Video on  
www.excelsiornews.com

Yadav said an immediate relief of Rs 50,000 each to the family of deceased persons is being provided.

The deceased have been identified as Nazir Ahmed, son of Chatu and his wife-Nissara Begum, Maimna Begum, wife of Mohd Sharief and Shamma Begum, wife of Kalu, all residents of Ghati in Barwal block of Kathua district.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has expressed grief over the loss of lives due to unfortunate incident in Keshwan area of

Kishtwar. "Deeply anguished by the loss of lives in a tragic incident in Kishtwar. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones," the Lt Governor said. Sinha directed the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar to provide all assistance to next of kin of the deceased.

Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad also expressed shock over the loss of lives of four members of Bakerwal family after a tree fell on their tent in Kishtwar area.

In a statement, Azad lauded the efforts of locals for launching immediate rescue operation and directed senior party leaders to supervise the rescue work. He urged the administration to provide all possible support and compensation to the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, the dead body of a woman who was washed away on Wednesday in flooded Betar river near Degwar in Poonch was recovered today.

Official sources said that aunt and niece while crossing the nallah yesterday were

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### Blueprint committee lacks members from Environment, Forest

## Chairman BOCA seeks fresh constructions in Sonamarg against SC, MoEFCC guidelines

### Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, May 25: In gross violation of Supreme Court and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India guidelines, the Chairman of BOCA for Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has formed a committee which seeks creation of new accommodations in eco-fragile Sonamarg which has already crossed the threshold for constructions.

The BOCA chairman has submitted a blueprint for Tourism Development Authority Sonamarg before the High Court which seeks permission for creating new accommodation facilities at the tourist resort.

"Permission for creation of new accommodation facilities to cater high end tourists which include big business houses, Film production houses, Corporate and MICE tourism as per the existing capacity of the area. To permit creations of infrastructure in those cases which are cleared by BOCA but till date have not started the work as per the norms in the BOCA Act. To permit the authorities to allow the completion of infrastructure and Buildings within permissible limits which are under construction as per the approved plan/permissions," read the Blueprint.

The Blueprint further read: "To allow BOCA to receive new applications for

consideration of development of infrastructure. All these activities will be governed as per existing Master Plan 2005-25 by the BOCA."

The Blueprint has been submitted hardly two months after then CEO SDA, Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, in an affidavit before the High Court in February this year made it clear that no fresh constructions can be allowed in eco-fragile Sonamarg.

"...any further new construction in the Sonamarg area will drastically add to the existing foot print and bulk, thereby causing further damage to the ecologically fragile environment of the Sonamarg area; and if the permissions for new constructions

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

### 'Need to strengthen VDCs in entire region'

## Azad calls for permanent security deployment in Rajouri-Poonch

### \*Visits Dhangri terror attack victims

### Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 25: Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Democratic Progressive Azad Party Chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad today called for permanent deployment of security forces in the terror-hit Rajouri-Poonch border areas and strengthening of the intelligence network and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) in the entire region.

the bidders for development of the 175-Km-long gas pipeline between Gurdaspur in Punjab and Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per information available with the Excelsior, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) are among the interested bidders to lay the gas pipeline.

The PNGRB Joint Advisor (Authorisation), Md Tanweer Akhter said the last date for downloading and submitting of the bid documents by bidders interested in laying the pipeline was earlier fixed as May 8, 2023 and the last date for opening of the technical bids was fixed as May 10, 2023, but after receiv-

ing the requests from the prospective bidders to give relaxation in time, the PNGRB set May 17 as the last date for downloading and submission of the bid documents while as the last date for opening of the bid documents was set as May 19, 2023.

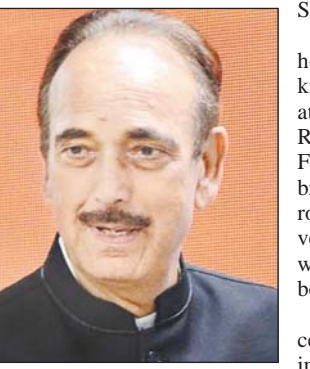
Now that the technical bids have been opened, they will be examined by a Technical Evaluation Committee of the experts from the PNGRB.

"After the process of examination is over, one of the bidders fulfilling all the requirements shall be given the authorisation for laying of the pipeline between Punjab and Jammu," Akhter said. (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

after visiting terrorists' attack victims at Dhangri village near

Minister Rajnath Singh and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

It is pertinent to mention here that seven people were killed and 14 injured in terrorists attack at Dhangri village in Rajouri on January 1 this year. Five people, including two brothers, were killed when terrorists opened fire at house. The very next day two more children were killed when an IED left behind by the attackers went off. "It is a matter of serious concern that such incidents are taking place in Rajouri district as the majority of other areas are



Rajouri today, Azad said he will take up the issue with Defence

AMUL DOODH 30g PROTEIN  
PEETA HAI INDIA  
₹54\* / 1 L  
Amul Taaza  
500 mL: ₹27\* | 15g Protein  
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