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ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: EC ...

"are up to something which will create more fissures" in a sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir.

"Handpicking any individual undemocratically will inadvertently create ruckus in the state and will prove detrimental to the interests of the state and the country at large," he said.

The NC leader said the people of the state are awake to the machinations of the forces "as are inimical to state's identity and integrity".

"The GoI (Government of India) wants someone who would work on the whims and fancies of BJP leadership. However, we will not let them succeed in this mission. It is with this belief that we expected a positive outcome of our meetings with EC team earlier," he said

"Any misadventure in J-K by those who are holding the reigns of country will seriously undermine the greater good of the nation. People of the state are awake to what they have been doing all along and they will unravel their nefarious designs and give them a befitting reply in the forthcoming general elections," he added.

"We have already put forth our position about holding the assembly polls in the state before the full Election Commission last week. There is nothing new to say about the issue," Tarigami, Yaseen and Mir said in a joint statement issued here.

Jammu and Kashmir is under the President's Rule since 19 December 2018. The PDP-BJP government in the state fell on 19 June 2018 after the national party pulled out of the coalition.

Since the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has been dissolved, the Election Commission is bound to hold fresh polls there as well within a six-month period, which will end in May.

Almost all political parties in Kashmir have advocated holding the state assembly polls simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls.

NIA issues fresh ...

in a letter to the NIA.

If the NIA wants to question the Mirwaiz, it can do so in Srinagar and he is willing to cooperate as "he has nothing to hide", the letter had said.

The lawyer had said his client was not acquainted with the subject matter of the FIR referred to in the NIA's notice and added that the notice to the separatist leader appears to have been issued on the basis of "fallacious assumptions and misinformation solely aimed at maligning the Mirwaiz".

On his client's stand on the Kashmir issue, the lawyer said it has always been clear.

"He has always stated that the Kashmir issue is a political and human issue which needs political resolution either through implementation of UN resolutions or through dialogue amongst the three stakeholders -- India, Pakistan and people of Jammu and Kashmir," the counsel of the Mirwaiz said

The NIA probe seeks to identify the chain of players behind the financing of terrorist activities, pelting of stones on security forces, burning down of schools and damaging of government establishments.

The case names Hafeez Saeed, Pakistan-based chief of Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), the front for banned Lashker-e-Taiba, as an accused, besides organisations such as the Hurriyat Conference factions led by Geelani and the Mirwaiz, Hizbul Mujahideen and Dukhtar-e-Millat.

Income Tax raids...

IT teams conducted raids include Gandhi Nagar, Raghunath Bazaar and Gangyal.

The raids continued till evening. Heavy contingents of security forces accompanied the IT Department teams to ensure hassle free surveys.

As per sources, various records, unaccounted cash and other vital evidences supporting undisclosed income have been seized. However, IT Department has not released any statement revealing information with regard to the recoveries and seizures made during raids.

Lok Sabha polls...

Kashmir seat on April 18. The hypersensitive seat of South Kashmir has been for the first time split into three parts. For Anantnag district, notification is being issued on March 28 and polling would be held on April 23. For Kulgam district, notification will come out on April 2 and date of polling is April 29. Notification for the twin districts of Shopian and Pulwama would be issued on April 10 and polling would be held on May 6.

Even as almost all the political parties, with the obvious exception of BJP, have been demanding holding of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections together, none of them has been able to hold a major electoral rally before or after March 10 when the ECI announced Lok Sabha elections across the country including on all the six seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

The mainstream majors, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which had won 15 and 28 seats respectively in the 2014 Assembly elections, have been holding indoor meetings with the party workers in several parts of the Valley. Congress party has also discreetly mobilised its activists and cadre on all the five seats it won in the 2014 Assembly elections as also in several other segments. BJP's 2014 pre-poll ally, Peoples Conference, that bagged two seats, is also interacting with its cadre in parts of North and Central Kashmir, notably in Kupwara district.

However, mainly due to the negative impact created by the 2016 turmoil coupled with a chain of encounters and killings, including the February 14 suicide bombing that left over 40 CRPF men martyred near Awantipora on Srinagar-Jammu highway, none of the mainstream parties or politicians has mustered courage to organise a thick public rally in the Valley. In recent past, NC and PDP have organised motley gatherings at Dak Bungalows in Baramulla and Anantnag besides a few quick public meetings at other places.

Arguably the largest attend was the one organised by Dr Shah Faesal, the IAS topper of 2010 who has lately resigned his job and announced to float his own party. Last month, Faesal addressed his first political gathering in his home district of Kupwara. If well-placed sources are to be believed, Faesal is all set to launch his party, named as Jammu and Kashmir Political Movement (JKPM) with a major rally at the Indoor Sports Stadium in Srinagar on Sunday, March 17. While as his workers claim that around 10,000 people's, mainly youths, would attend the rally, officials expect attendance of about 5,000.

JNU student leader Shehla Rashid Shora is said to be among a galaxy of men and women who are expected to join Faesal's party on Sunday. Sources insist that this party, which is completing the process of registration with ECI, would field its candidates on all the three seats in Valley.

In a significant development, BJP on Thursday organised its first major rally at Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar amid tight security. Party's National Vice President Avinash Rai Khanna and its Valley-based leaders, who drew workers from all the ten districts, addressed the gathering. Even as the organisers claimed that "thousands" attended the rally, officials in J&K Police insisted that the size of the rally was "not more than 500". They said that the biggest contribution was from MLC Sofi Yousuf who ferried around 150 of his workers from Mattan-Pahalgam area of Anantnag district.

Fear among the participants was betrayed by their desperate attempts to hide their faces when cameras panned over them. Such kind of fear and consternation has been unprecedented in all pre-1990 and post-1990 elections in the Valley. Even in the Lok Sabha elections of 1996, noted female singer-dansense Hasena Akhtar used to perform at several election rallies.

That the fear among participants is not without reason became evident when, parallel to the BJP meeting in Srinagar, gunmen shot at and left critically injured NC's Bloek President of Bijbehara, Mohammad Ismail Wani (60), at his village Dupatyar in Anantnag district. He is the first mainstream political activist targeted by terrorists after declaration of the Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir.

Govt orders cancellation...

prevailing in the State up-to February 26, 2019, wherein it was categorically mentioned that in case the newly appointed Medical Officers fail to join at their respective places of posting within stipulated period of time their appointments shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and candidates from the waiting list shall be considered for appointment, without any further notice.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health & Medical Education has issued a notice giving last and final opportunity to the 79 Medical Officers who have submitted their joining reports but are not physically continuing at their respective places of posting as on date.

As per the notice, these Medical Officers are hereby informed to resume their duties within a period of 7 days, from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which they shall be deemed to have been discharged from the probation in pursuance of J&K Classification, Control & Appeal Rules, 1956.

To augment the health care facilities in the rural and far flung areas of the State, the H&ME department completed the whole process of recruitment in

a record time of 3 months and orders of appointment were issued to the selected 921 Medical Officers on January 14, 2019. (list available on our website www.statetimes.in)

Bus stand attack...

our case before the board with all the documents and proof which have been collected, including the doctor's report, so that they can take a call."

He said police are taking various steps to prevent such type of attacks in the city in the future.

"The daily footfall at the bus stand is around 10,000. So, we are working on developing and improving intelligence network to ensure safety and security of people," the officer said adding the main focus is on intelligence gathering and being "pro-active".

Cross-LoC trade ...

trucks was almost complete.

Though there were no casualties in the shelling, several sheds including the one housing the X-Ray scanner were damaged.

"The trade remained suspended for the second day and is likely to be resumed tomorrow (Friday)," custodian of LoC trade centre, Poonch, Fareed Kohli said.

The cross-LoC trade between Poonch on this side and Rawalakot in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which started in October 2008, takes place four days a week from Tuesday to Friday on barter system.

The Indian Army had retaliated to the firing from Pakistan on Wednesday.

"There has been no report of ceasefire violation from anywhere along the LoC since late Wednesday afternoon," an Army official said.

He said the Indian Army is fully alert and maintaining tight vigil along the LoC and the International Border.

There has been a spurt in cross-border skirmishes after India's pre-emptive air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammad terror camp in Balakot on February 26.

The strike followed the February 14 Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were martyred. The JeM had claimed responsibility for the attack.

BJP seeks investigations...

centuries-old brotherhood, bonding and bonhomie between the Gujjars and Dogras, in Kashmir she was relentlessly working for JeI and pursuing the agenda laid down by Hurriyat".

The JeI, ever since its inception, has been promoting a pro-Pakistan agenda and questioning the State's accession with India. It is also responsible for encouraging separatism and terrorism with Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) as its armed terrorist wing, alleged Gupta.

As far as her repeated statements boasting of preventing BJP government at Centre from acting against the Hurriyat and Jamaat and forcing the release of stone-pelters and cessation of military operations during Ramzan, Gupta said that it was a clear-cut case of betrayal of faith imposed in her by the Central government as the CM of the State.

Congress, NC celebrating ...

It is now more than evident, Dr Jitendra Singh said, that China and Pakistan, both, have a vested interest in continuance of terrorism in India, particularly Kashmir. If, even now, this not is an eye-opener for some of the apologists back home, it is for the people of India to decide about their fate.

Eight factories making...

that they were running in rented accommodations.

"Simultaneous raids were conducted after inputs were provided by the DSB team and eight factories were sealed," sources said and added that a case has been registered under relevant sections and action has initiated.

SFs in hot...

intelligence agencies, infiltrated into Kashmir in December last year and has been moving around in the most-volatile Tral area, 46 km south of Srinagar.

There were intelligence inputs in December about the presence of a Pakistani terrorist, whose height is over 6.5 feet, and the same was corroborated by police informers. He has been moving around the axis of Tral-Pulwama-Awantipura, considered a Jaish-e-Mohammed-dominated belt, the officials said.

In the past, search-and-cordon operations were launched to nab him but he managed to give security forces the slip, a senior police officer said.

According to investigations so far, Ismail has been sent by the Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group to fabricate IEDs, besides brainwashing new recruits for becoming potential 'fidayees' (suicide attackers), they said.

The officials said the IED used in the February 14 terror strike could have been fabricated by Ismail Bhai with the help of locals.

Tral, a town of Pulwama district known for hot springs, has emerged as the breeding ground for terror groups as well as safe haven for those infiltrating from across the border.

Ever since the terrorism started in Kashmir Valley in 1990s, Tral township did not see much of crackdowns as it was used by terrorists as a transit point to slip into various places of south Kashmir.

However, after the death of Burhan Wani, poster boy of Hizbul Mujahideen terror group, in July 2016, the town has virtually turned into a hub of terrorist activities.

This year, according to the officials, 49 terrorists were gunned down across the valley, out of which 10 were in Tral.

Sunday last, two terrorists, including Mudasar Ahmed Khan, who was alleged to be the mastermind of the February 14 terror strike, were killed in the Tral area.

J&K BJP unit...

press release. The three new spokespersons are -- Lt General (retired) Rakesh Sharma, Abhinav Sharma and Ashwani Chhangoo. They all joined the party recently, it said.

The former army officer has also been appointed as in-charge for a party committee on defence and security issues, the release said, adding that Chhangoo, who is a prominent Kashmiri Pandit leader, is the spokesperson for the party on Kashmir affairs.

It said Abhinav Sharma has been also given the post of member in the election management committee.

Former legislators Gharu Ram, Pawan Gupta and Baldev Sharma, and a former minister Bhushan Dogra were appointed as members of the state BJP working committee, the release said.

It said former chief engineer Sat Pal Manhas and party leaders Darshan Singh Thakkar, Raman Suri, Nitish Mahajan, Ravi Kumar Bakshi, Abhijeet Jasrotia, Bodh Raj Rao and Jagdish Raj Bhagat are also part of the committee. On July 16 last year, the party had announced a new team of office-bearers which included 11 vice-presidents, three general secretaries and 10 state secretaries.

The state BJP unit had also appointed its chief spokesperson and 10 state spokespersons .

India-Pak hold talks on Kartarpur corridor but J&K bearing brunt of hostilities: Mehbooba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said India and Pakistan were holding talks on Kartarpur corridor but the people of Jammu and Kashmir were bearing the brunt of the hostilities between the two countries.

"This is what we have been talking about that why is it only that Jammu and Kashmir bears the brunt whenever there are hostilities between India and Pakistan. If Kartarpur is opening, Wagah is open, (then why) the Poonch-Rawalakote is closed, Uri-Muzaffarabad road was closed," she told reporters here.

India and Pakistan held their first meeting Thursday to finalise the modalities for the corridor linking Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistani town of Kartarpur with Gurdaspur district in Punjab. Mehbooba said the PDP wants that assembly polls be held as soon as possible in the state. "Our party's stand is clear that elections should take place and take place sooner. People are facing tremendous difficulties -- when there are arrests going on and hardships in every way. The polls should take place soon and a government be formed," she said.

5 dead, 32 injured as overbridge collapses near Mumbai's CST

■ AGENCY

MUMBAI: Five persons, including three women, were killed and 32 injured after major portion of a foot overbridge near a busy train station in south Mumbai collapsed Thursday evening, officials said.

The bridge, which connected the area near the Times of India building with the iconic Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station, was commonly called 'Kasab bridge' as the 26/11 Mumbai attack terrorist passed through it during the strike.

All the injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals, a disaster management cell official said.

Just after the incident, Mumbai Police had tweeted: "Foot over-bridge connecting CST platform 1 north end with B T Lane near Times of India building has collapsed. Injured persons are being shifted to hospitals. Traffic

affected. Commuters to use alternate routes. Senior officers are on spot."

The deceased were identified as Apoorva Prabhu (35), Ranjana Tambe (40), Bhakti Shinde (40), Zahid Shiraj Khan (32) and T Singh (35), said police spokesperson Manjunath Shinge.

Prabhu and Tambe were staff members of the G T Hospital, the official said.

The tragedy comes eight months after another bridge collapsed in suburban Andheri, in which five persons were killed.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the family of the deceased and said a high-level committee will probe the circumstances under which the 40-year-old over-bridge collapsed.

"The injured persons will get Rs 50,000 each and the government will bear the cost of their treatment," Fadnavis

said, adding that officials found responsible for the incident will be booked.

"I have ordered a high-level inquiry into this unfortunate incident which puts a question mark over the authenticity of the structural audit of bridges carried out across the city," he added.

A 45-member team of the National Disaster Response Force has been rushed to the site for rescue operations.

An eyewitness said the over-bridge was being used by pedestrians even as repair works happened in the morning.

Several motorists were also under the bridge when it came down, which led to an increase in the number of injured, an official said.

"Fire brigade personnel reached the spot immediately and rescue work is in full swing. We have appealed the motorists to avoid the D N Road to JJ Flyover section," he said.

EICS, Info Deptt organises cultural event



Students performing folk item during Annual Day.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Era International Convent School (EICS), Chanderkot in collaboration with Information Department Ramban organised various colourful and informative events on the occasion of annual day of the host school here today.

Dy. SP Headquarters was the Chef Guest and ZEO, Batote was the Guest of Honour whereas staff mem-

bers, parents and students of host school were graced the function.

Besides organising sports and extracurricular activities a colourful cultural programmes including Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi and phari dance and songs presented by the students which was mesmerised the audience. Principal of the host school Mehazza Rashid presented vote of thanks.

807th Urs of Khawaja Gareeb Nawaz celebrated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Like many parts of the country, 807th Urs of Hazrat Khawaja Moin-ud-Din Chisti (RA) of Ajmer Sharif (known as Khawaja Gareeb Nawaz) was also celebrated at Kishtwar with great enthusiasm and religious fervour: Large number of people participated in special prayers organised by Shah family of Bunastan Kishtwar under the guidance of President Anjuman Tablig-ul-Islam Jammu province Haji Fareed Ahmed Shah.

On the occasion religious scholars threw light on the life of Khawaja Moin-ud-Din Chisti (RA) who during his life time preached and enlightened

the people with knowledge of peace, prosperity and brotherhood.

While speaking President Anjuman Tablig-ul-Islam Jammu province Haji Fareed Ahmed Shah said that his family are the great flowers of the Khawaja Gareeb Nawaz and use to visit Ajmer Sharief every year to participate in the annual Urs. Prominent among those who participated in the special prayers include Kh.Jamal Din Dar, Haji Ghulam Rasool Shah, Nayiaz Ahmed Dev, Ghulam Rasool Sheikh, Mansoor Shah, Nisar Ahmed Shah, Tousif Kripak, Syed Zakir Hussain, Haji Mushtaq Ahmed Shah and Khursheed Ahmed Kitchloo .

J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.

OFFICE OF THE DY. GENERAL MANAGER UNIT 4TH,
Office Complex First Floor, Rail Head, Panama Chowk, Jammu.

CIN: U45205JK1965SGC000296 Tele Nos. 2471440, 2471428, 2471423

EXTENSION NOTICE-3RD

Sub: Labour for construction of Brick Masonry work, R.C.C. Lintel and Form Work for Additional Block for Registration Section, Record Room and Parking for BOSE at Rehari, Jammu

Ref: E-NIT No. 08 of 2018-2019 Dated: 29-01-2019.
Due to poor response, the critical dates for above mentioned NIT are extended as under:-

1) Last date for submission of online Bids : 20-03-2019 upto 4:00 PM
2) Date of opening of technical bids : 22-03-2019 at 02:00 PM

All other terms & conditions shall remain the same as already advertised.

NO: JKPC/U-4th/J/1613-20
Dated: 12-03-2019

DIP/J-5749-P/19
DT-14-03-2019

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager,
JKPC Ltd., Unit 4th,
Jammu.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAMMU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DIVISION NO. I RHC, JAMMU
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. JDA-I/2018-19/e-NIT/102 Dated 13.03.2019

Executive Engineer, JDA Division No. I, Jammu on behalf of Vice Chairman, JDA, invites tenders by e-tendering on item Rate from REGISTERED FIRMS (REGISTERED WITH REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES/LABOUR DEPARTMENT/REGISTERED AS N.G.O., the works whose particulars are given below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Last date and time for submission of tenders	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	House keeping and sanitation of Vikas Bhawan RHC, Jammu Ground floor: 7280 sqft, 1st floor: 6950 sqft. Part 2nd floor: 1488 sqft. Divisional Office of JDA Division No.1 including parking area of Divisional Office.	To be quoted by the contractor	10,000/-	Rs.1000/-	One Year	22-03-2019 (1600 Hrs)	23-03-2019 (1400 Hrs)	Registered with Registrar of Societies / Labour Department or as NGO.	Demandd

The tender document consisting of specifications, bill of quantity of items to be executed and the set of terms and conditions of bidding document can be down loaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

No: JDA-I/5321-29
Dated:- 13/3/2019

DIP/J-5741-P/19
DT-14-03-2019

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JDA DIVISION NO. I
JAMMU