

# Full Eco Potential Of JK Not Realised Due To Art 370: Govt

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The government on Tuesday said the full economic potential of Jammu and Kashmir has not been realised due to Article 370 and the full rights of the people of the region enshrined in the Constitution were denied because of Article 35A.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said in Lok Sabha that based on the

Parliament's recommendation, a declaration was issued by the President on August 6, 2019 under Article 370 and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh, addressing all such issues.

"Full economic potential of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions could not be realised for the last 70 years as the people

of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered from violence and separatism supported from across the border for the past many decades," he said, replying to a written question.

Reddy said on account of Article 35A and certain other constitutional ambiguities, the people of this region were denied full rights enshrined in the Constitution and other benefits of various central laws that were being

enjoyed by other citizens of the country.

"Due to these recent decisions, certain precautionary measures were taken initially which have been subsequently relaxed," he said.

The minister said as reported by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, the agriculture operations are going on smoothly in the valley.

During 2019-20 (upto January,

2020), 18.34 lakh MTs of fresh fruit (apples) have been dispatched.

In the horticulture sector, under the Market Intervention Schemes (MIS) launched by the Government of India in September 2019, for the first time, 15769.38 MTs of apples valued at Rs.70.45 crores have been procured up to January 28, 2020, directly from the growers in Kashmir valley through National

Agriculture Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

This scheme has been extended up to March 31, 2020.

The sericulture sector recorded a production of 813 MTs of silk cocoon in 2019.

Reddy said during the first three quarters of 2019-20, handicrafts worth Rs 688.26 crore were exported.

Various tourism promotional campaigns have also been

launched, he said.

The minister said the government of Jammu and Kashmir has informed that as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey, last conducted for 2017-18 by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of Government of India, the worker-population ratio for persons in the age group of 15 years and above for Jammu and Kashmir is 51 per cent.

## PIL Seeks Stay On Chopra's Movie 'Shikara'

Agencies

**MUMBAI:** A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court against Vidhu Vinod Chopra's upcoming film "Shikara: The Untold Story Of Kashmiri Pandits", demanding a stay on its release and deleting some of the scenes.

"Shikara" is set against the backdrop of the Kashmiri Pandit migration from the Kashmir Valley in late 1989 and early 1990, in the wake of militancy. The film is scheduled to

release on February 7.

The petitioners are Iftikhar Misgar, Majid Hyderi and Irfan Hafiz Lone, who have alleged that the film portrays untrue facts about Kashmir and Kashmiri Pandits.

"We are asking for stalling the release and deleting a few scenes that portray the valley's Muslims in a bad light," Misgar told wire service IANS.

"We have urged the high court to take the case up on a priority basis," he added.

A new video earlier in the day tweeted by Vidhu Vinod Chopra Films' official page

said: "In 1990, more than 4,00,000 Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave their home. 30 years later, their story will finally be told."

"Shikara: The Untold Story Of Kashmiri Pandits" marks Vidhu Vinod Chopra's comeback to Bollywood as a director for the first time since his 2007 release, "Ekavya", starring Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Saif Ali Khan, Vidya Balan, Raima Sen, Jackie Shroff and Jimmy Sheirgill. Chopra introduces Aadil Khan and Sadia in the lead roles of "Shikara".

## Exhibit Zero Tolerance Towards Cultivation, Sale Of Narcotics: FC Finance To Officers Reviews Performance, Working Of Excise Department

**JAMMU:** Financial Commissioner, Finance, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, today emphasised the officers of Excise department to show zero tolerance towards cultivation and sale of narcotics in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Mehta was speaking at a review meeting of J&K Excise department.

Additional Secretary, Finance, Vishal Sharma; Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Kashmir, Tahir Ajaz; Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Jammu, Amarjeet Singh; DEC Distilleries, Ranjeet Singh; DEC Accounts, Bharat Singh Manhas; Principal Excise Training Insti-

tute, Nagrota, Ankur Mahajan and Additional Secretary Legal, Mohd Ayaz were present in the meeting. All the Excise and Taxation Officers from both the divisions participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Financial Commissioner directed the officers to take the task of curbing the drug menace in an absolute mission mode. "It is our moral, ethical and social responsibility to nip this evil completely for the sake of the posterity", he maintained. He asserted that youth is the greatest capital of any society and we can't allow our youngsters to go haywire.

Dr. Mehta asked the officers to make sincere efforts and

use satellite imagery and other modern technology to effectively deal with this challenge. In this regard, he suggested for taking full advantage of information and data available with other government departments. He underscored the need for developing a permanent structure of information sharing mechanism with organisations like Narcotics Bureau etc.

The FC suggested the officers to go through the excise policies being implemented in other parts of the country so that necessary amendments could be brought in J&K's Policy for better results. He asked the department to make inter-

department transfers between Excise and State Taxes departments a regular feature for promoting a transparent and effective system.

He directed the concerned to equip every district with the necessary enforcement infrastructure as per the requirements. He assured of extending full support in terms of providing the requisite men and machinery for making the results visible on ground.

The meeting was informed that during the current fiscal the department has collected a revenue of about Rs. 1,104 crore by way of levying excise duties and Rs. 728 crore by way of toll tax.

From Front page...

## Indo, Pak Troops Trade Fire

along LoC in Shahpur and Kirni sectors in Poonch district. Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," the official said.

He added that there was no report of any casualty so far.

Meanwhile, the estranged armies also exchanged gunfire in Bagtore area of Gurez in Bandipora district.

"At around 6:30 Pakistan army restored to LMG firing along the LoC which was effectively retaliated by the Indian army. There was, however, no report of any damage to property or life," sources said.

Sources said that the Pakistan army resorted to intense firing and shelling last night also in Bagtore area of Gurez. The firing continued for about 15-20 minutes and later stopped, they said.

On Sunday an army soldier identified as Sandeep Yadav of 6 Maratha regiment was injured in cross-LoC firing near Panth post. The injured soldier was evacuated to army's 92 base hospital in Srinagar for treatment.

Indian Army had stated last year that ceasefire violations across LoC by Pakistan Army had doubled in 2019 with around 3,200 reported instances compared to 1,629 incidents in 2018.

In December last year, 329 incidents were reported which is also double compared to December 2018 with 175 cases.

Since abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan has increased ceasefire violations. Last year, a total of 307 incidents were reported in August. While in September, 292 incidents were registered. In October and November 2019, 351 and 304 cases of ceasefire violations were reported.

With PTI inputs

## CASO Carried Out In Bandipora

in Bandipora in the morning.

They said despite chilly weather condition, forces were conducting house-to-house searches in the area. "Searches were also going in nearby orchards and fields in the area," they said.

They said so far, no contact has been established with the militants.

## Ex-PDP MLA, Trade Leader Released

Conference leader Sajjad Gani Lone.

While Farooq Abdullah has been kept at his Gupkar house, his son and NC vice president Omar Abdullah has been detained at Hari Niwas. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, who was initially lodged at Cheshmashahi huts, has been shifted to a government building in the heart of Srinagar.

The senior Abdullah was slapped with the stringent Public Safety Act on September 17 and further renewed for a period of three months on December 16.

## Delhi Polls: Kejriwal Gives BJP

from all agencies, Centre along with two crore people of Delhi", he said.

The 10-point manifesto of AAP has a vision to enable every common man to live with dignity and prosperity.

Full statehood to Delhi, implementing Jan Lokpal Bill, Doorstep ration delivery, expanding Delhi Metro, Yamuna riverside development, 24x7 shopping bazaars, women safety, health, 24-hour electricity and clean water are among other promises of the AAP.

The AAP also promised free pilgrimage to

10 lakh senior citizens.

Polling in 70 Assembly seats of Delhi will be held on February 8, and votes will be counted on February 11.

## Shaheen Bagh Shooter Is An AAP

reported from Shaheen Bagh in a span of three days. A man had fired from a pistol on a group of anti-CAA protesters in the area on Thursday, injuring a student of the Jamia Millia Islamia University.

## MeT Predicts Fresh Snowfall Today

minus 24 followed by Leh, where the mercury settled at minus 22.4 degree Celsius.

A Meteorological department spokesperson said that rain or snow would occur at some places in the valley under the influence of a Western Disturbance (WD), which is active in the region.

"The WD has phased off and will have very less impact in the valley," he said, adding on Wednesday, snow could occur at isolated places.

He said the weather will again turn dry from Thursday onwards, which would result in dip in the night temperature though mercury during the day is expected to improve.

Despite an improvement of about a degree in the night temperature, world famous ski resort of Gulmarg, about 55 km from here in north Kashmir, was the coldest place in the valley at minus 10.1 degree.

The night temperature at world famous health resort of Pahalgam, about 100 km from here in south Kashmir, improved about 6 degree from Monday and settled at minus 6.6 degree.

After witnessing improvement of about 2 degree in the night temperature, people woke up to a cloudy and chilly Tuesday morning in the summer capital, Srinagar. Chill further intensified as the day progressed due to overcast conditions, coupled with ice cold winds in the city.

The night temperature in the city improved and settled at minus 3 degree, against minus 5 degree recorded on Monday.

During this 40-day-long Chilai Kalan, which ended on Wednesday, Srinagar received heavy snowfall, breaking about 30 year old record.

The night temperature at Qazigund, Kupwara in north Kashmir and tourist resort of Kokernag improved and settled at minus 6.3 degree, minus 3.9 degree and minus 4.8 degree, respectively.

## Road Accidents Kill 3 In J&K

Rafiq Ahmad and Farooq Ahmad -- were rescued in an injured condition. Another person, Mudasar Ahmad Bhat, remained untraced and is believed to have drowned in river Chenab, the official added.

In another accident, two people were killed and another injured when a truck fell into a deep gorge in Doda district in the early hours of Tuesday, police said.

The truck was on its way from Doda to Bharath when the accident occurred near Army checkpoint at the Bari area after the driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a curve, they said.

According to reports, a police team and volunteers from Ababel NGO immediately rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation.

Doda Senior Superintendent of Police Mumtaz Ahmed said, "All three persons were taken to Doda district hospital, where

doctors declared two of them as brought dead. The injured was referred to GMC Jammu."

Mohinder Singh (45) and Surjeet Singh (48) were killed in the accident, while the injured has been identified as Sat Pal (50), he said.

Police said the condition of all four injured was stated to be "serious".

## Pak Asks India To Reverse Its Decision

status of Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter and has also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

The resolution reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people and asked the UN Security Council to enforce a peaceful settlement of the issue in accordance with its resolutions.

The resolution asked India to immediately allow international organisations, parliamentarians and international media access to Kashmir so that they are able to record the human rights situation there.

It also called upon the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to immediately convene a special summit on Kashmir.

The resolution "totally rejected the belligerence and war mongering of BJP government", saying it poses threat to regional peace and stability.

It also expressed the "unshakeable resolve of Pakistani nation to thwart any Indian aggression."

## Congress Asks Govt To Bring Bill To Restore

its mistake," he added.

Azad noted the role of the security forces in the country, but said that when there are tensions in a border state, it is the common man who first bears the brunt.

The senior Congress leader and former minister also drew the attention of the government to the protests by women at Shaheen Bagh in Delhi and appealed for addressing their concerns.

Hundreds of women have been protesting against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that grants citizenship to non-Muslims facing religious persecution in three neighbouring countries -- Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

"Not a single minister of the government has talked about addressing the issue. The government seems to be on a war path," the Congress leader said.

## NC Says Art 370 Abrogation

commitments made to the people of Kashmir in 1947, 1952 and 1975 and this will only widen the divide in the state.

He asked the Centre to "undo" the abrogation and acknowledge that it was a mistake.

The Centre on August 5 revoked Article 370 provisions which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and proposed that the state be bifurcated into two Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Last month Jammu and Kashmir's Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh was caught ferrying militants in a car in the Valley.

Participating in the debate, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav said the BJP government talks about 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas', but it neither took everyone along nor was there any development.

Rather "it is only creating doubts in the minds of people", he said.

Yadav said the government forgot to mention about river Ganga in the President's ad-

dress. He said that the government has not acted to clean Ganga.

Cleaning Ganga is only possible when you clean the polluted river Yamuna, he said.

## Jailed Mehbooba Offers Prayers, Reads Books

erstwhile State into two Union Territories--J&K and Ladakh.

Mehbooba during her ongoing incarceration read many books including Holy Quran, Lost palace by Catherine Bowness, No God but God by Reza Aslan and books of Elif Shafiq, a Turkish-British novelist. Iltija told a local newsgathering agency KNO.

Iltija, who met her mother ten days ago, said only a few family members including mother, daughters and siblings are being allowed to meet Mehbooba at present.

"Although adequate facilities are being provided to my mother in jail, but after spending six months e without any trial, anyone who is under detention would certainly miss her home and family," she said.

About her conversation during her meeting with Mehbooba Mufti, she said anyone who is under detention from last six months wonders what is happening outside.

"The situation in Kashmir is well known to everyone. The internet is still not working properly. The government actually doesn't want people to express their pain and agony, therefore the services have been suspended continuously," she said.

She said that every Kashmiri is being punished, and the government would have even controlled people to breathe, if they had such powers.

Asked about Mehbooba's continuous detention, Iltija said "It is a banana republic here. Everybody is under the thumb of government. If you see the internet suspension in Assam and other places, the court intervened and services were restored shortly."

Mehbooba was among the leaders who challenged the abrogation of Article 370 with threatening statements. She had also stated that no one in Kashmir will hold tricolour if Article 370 is tampered with.

However, Iltija while responding to the query said that she doesn't know whether her mother will stick to her words.

"I don't know what will be her future course of action. Once she is out, she has to chalk out what she has to do. I can't decide or speak for anyone else including my mother," she said.

## Zaira Wasim Asks 7 Questions

There's a false and uneasy semblance of calmness in place of escalating despair and sorrow? Kashmiris continue to exist and suffer in a world where it is so easy to place restrictions on our liberty."

"Why do we have to live in a world where our lives and wills are controlled, dictated and bent? Why is it so easy to have our voices silenced? Why is it so easy to curtail our freedom of expression? Why aren't we ever allowed to voice our opinions, let alone our disapprovals, to decisions that are made contrary to our wishes? Why is it that instead of trying to see the cause of our view, our view is just condemned ruthfully?"

"What is so easy to curb our voices so severely? Why can we not live simple lives without always having to wrestle and remind the world of our existence? Why is that life of a Kashmiri is just about experiencing a lifetime of crisis, blockade and disturbance so abundantly that it has taken away the recognition of normalcy and harmony from the hearts and minds?"

While criticising the authorities, she said: "Hundreds of questions like these -- unanswered; leaving us bewildered and frustrat-

ed, but our frustrations find no outlet. The authority doesn't make the slightest effort to put a stop to our doubts and speculations, but stubbornly tend to go their own way to confine our existence mired in a confused, conflicted and a paralysed world."

The 19-year-old Srinagar-born former actress added: "But I ask the world, what has altered your acceptance of the misery and oppression we're being subjected to? Do not believe the unfair representation of the facts and details or the rosy hue that the media has cast on the reality of the situation. Ask questions, re-examine the biased assumptions. Ask questions. For our voices have been silenced -- and for how long....none of us really know!"

In June last year, Zaira said goodbye to her film career as she held that "relationship with her religion was threatened". In a detailed post on her Facebook page, the 18-year-old had cited religious reasons for her decision to quit her promising career in the Bollywood.

## Plea Against Modi Adjoined Too Many

matter after Holi vacation.

hat had earlier told the court that it should issue notice on the plea, as the matter is connected with alleged conspiracy from February 27, 2002 to May 2002.

s many as 68 people, including Jafri, were killed by a mob at Gulberg Society on February 28, 2002. The incident occurred after the S-6 Coach of the Sabarmati Express was burnt at Godhra killing 59 people and triggered riots in Gujarat.

The SIT in February 2012 filed a closure report giving clean chit to Modi and 63 others, which included senior officials in the government, citing no concrete evidence was found.

Zakia Jafri moved the top court in 2018 challenging the October 2017 Gujarat High Court order rejecting her plea against the SIT's decision. She contended her protest petition, filed challenging the SIT closure report, was dismissed without examining the merit in her contentions.

In October 2017, the High Court noted the SIT probe was apex court monitored. However, it partly allowed Zakia Jafri's petition in connection with further investigation on the matter. The High Court noted the petitioner can move appropriate forum, including the trial court, a division bench of the high court or the apex court seeking further investigation on the matter.

## CB Files Case Against JKPCC Officials

and 5(2) PC Act," the spokesperson said. He said that the government had constituted a fact-finding committee to look into irregularities in award of contracts in violation of prescribed SOP/procedures after the issuance of Government order No. 308 of P/W dated 21-11-2015. "The Government order had made it necessary to invite competition through tendering process however during enquiry it surfaced 33 works have been executed by JKPCC unit 10th on nomination basis after splitting them into 1400 component works. The nomination has been through favorite piece workers," the spokesperson said, adding "Investigation have been taken up,"

## Army Vehicle Hits Car In Qazigund, 5 Injured

the seriously injured people to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for advanced treatment.