

Administration Speeds Up Anti-Encroachment Drive In Kashmir

- 409 Kanal Land Worth Rs 240.58 Crore Reclaimed In Srinagar: Officials
- Eviction Drive Turns Violent In Jammu, Policeman Injured

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A day after Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha reiterated that the ongoing eviction drive was aimed at 'influential and powerful land grabbers', the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday ran bulldozers on the properties of advocate Shabnum Lone, and former director information Farooq Renzu Shah in the twin districts of Srinagar and Budgam.

Besides it, land eviction drives were also carried out in Anantnag and Baramulla districts of the Valley as well.

According to officials, 409 kanal of prime state and Kahcharai land worth over Rs 240.58 crore was reclaimed from the influential land grabbers from all 7 Tehsils, including Eidgah, North Srinagar, Panthachowk, Khanyar, South Srinagar, Central Shalteng and Chanapora.

They said a joint team of revenue and Police headed by Tehsildar North, Kaiser Mehmood launched a massive anti-encroachment drive in



Dara and Danihama villages and retrieved 12 kanals of state and Kahcharai land worth Rs 3.60 crore from the land grabbers. In Ahal village of the Tehsil, the team, they said, also retrieved 35 kanal of land including a hotel worth Rs 35 crore.

Similarly, the officials said, in a major anti-encroachment drive launched at Balhama village under the supervision of Tehsildar

Pantha Chowk, Rakib Ahmad as many as 77 kanal of Kahcharai land was retrieved under survey no 1522, 1442 & 1443 having value of over 33 crore.

"Likewise, Kreshibal and Anchar villages in Eidgah Tehsil, Revenue Team headed by Tehsildar, Ishfaq Ahamd Khan retrieved 101 kanal and 17 marlas of state land worth Rs 40.74 crore **More on P6**

Tehsildar Hurt In Baramulla

A senior revenue department official was injured during an anti-encroachment drive carried out by authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday, officials said. The anti-encroachment drive to retrieve state land was undertaken in the Chakla Rafiabab area of the north Kashmir district, they added. During the drive, some people protested against the government **More on P6**

3 Stone Crushers Demolished In A'nag

A massive anti-encroachment drive was also carried out in South Kashmir's Anantnag district during which various stone crushers operating from state land were removed, officials said. They said 25 kanals of land was retrieved in Bumthan area of the district where 3 stone crushers were operating from state land despite being served eviction notice few days ago. "Today demolition **More on P6**

Eviction Drive Sparks Violent Protest In Jammu



Police used batons and fired a few teargas canisters after an eviction drive turned violent in Malik Market along the Narwal bypass in the winter capital on Saturday. According to reports, hundreds of shopkeepers and locals hit the streets in Malik Market and staged a protest after a team of revenue officials and police reached the area with earthmover machines to carry out

an anti-encroachment drive. Angry protesters blocked the road and tried to disrupt the drive. They also pelted stones upon the earthmover machines when an automobile showroom was being demolished. As the situation turned tense, SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli reached the spot and tried to pacify the protesters. Later, the people allowed vehicular traffic to ply on the road. **More on P6**

J&K Eyes 10-15% Growth In Tourist Footfall This Year

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is expecting 15-20 per cent year-on-year growth in travellers visiting the Union Territory in 2023 and has developed 75 new destinations to reduce footfalls to the most visited places, a top official said on Saturday.

Over 1.8 crore people, including 20,000 overseas travellers, visited Jammu and Kashmir after the COVID-related restrictions were eased.

Jammu and Kashmir as an all-year-round destination is expecting 15-20 per cent growth in footfalls in 2023 compared to last year, J&K Special Secretary, Tourism, Amarjeet Singh said.

"Looking at the growing interest of people wanting to visit Jammu and Kashmir, we have added 75 new destinations that have ample scenic beauty. This will not only reduce pressure from the popular places but also help in reducing the carbon footprint of the most visited place," Singh told PTI.

The government is focusing on homestays in these new destinations to maintain the scenic beauty and the ecology of the areas, Singh added.

Some of these new destinations are Bani in Kathua district, Aithem, Suchetgarh, Basholi, Sarthal, Pancheri, Ransoo, Budhal and many more, he noted.

"We have created basic infrastructure in these destinations and are promoting homestays. We want to maintain the existing natural beauty of these new places, which will be sustainable and attract people with an experience that will be in their memory for many years. **More on P6**

I HAVE BEEN PAYING RS11, 000 RENT for my godown and residence to the landlord for the last 20 years. Where will I go with my family now in this harsh winter? He asked, while tears trickled down his cheeks.

LG Dismisses Joshimath Like Situation In Doda

Says Administration Keeping A Close Watch On Situation

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said the Jammu and Kashmir administration was keeping a close watch on two dozen structures in Doda developing cracks but denied the situation was akin to the land subsidence witnessed in Joshimath.

The best possible assistance will be extended to the affected families of Nai Basti in the Thathri area, situated around 35 km from the Doda town along the Kishtwar-Batote National Highway.

While three houses collapsed after developing

cracks, 18 other structures were rendered unsafe, prompting the district administration to shift over 100 people to safer places.

"All the affected houses have been evacuated and there is no need to create much hype. The administration is keeping a close eye on the (emerging) situation and the best possible action will be taken (for their rehabilitation)," Sinha told reporters on the sidelines of a function at Raj Bhawan here.

Asked if it was a Joshimath-like situation in the affected village, the Lt Governor replied **More on P6**

GSI Team Visit Village To Ascertain Cause

A team of experts from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) on Saturday inspected a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district to ascertain the underlying factors for the development of cracks in nearly two dozen concrete buildings, an official said. Doda Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan said the GSI experts visited the affected Nai Basti village in Thathri tehsil to know the reason for the **More on P6**

Govt Sensitive About Issues Faced By KPs: LG

Says Attacks Were Not Carried Out On Individuals But Integrity Of India

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that his administration is sensitive to the issues of Kashmiri pandits, including the PM package employees, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that the attacks carried out in Valley were not on the individuals of the community but also on the integrity of India.

"Few unfortunate incidents had occurred. These attacks were not only on individuals but also on the integrity of India. There are a handful of people, who on the behest of the neighboring country are targeting innocent civilians. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are working with full sensitivity and commitment to address all the issues," Sinha said.

He made these remarks while addressing a gathering of KPs at Jagti Colony here on Saturday.

The LG said that many PM package employees have



Seeks NCC Involvement In Anti-Drugs Campaigns

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Saturday sought the active involvement of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in the anti-drugs campaigns in Jammu and Kashmir. He also encouraged the NCC cadets to **More on P6**

resumed their duties and that direction has been issued to release their pending salaries without any delay.

Rejecting the remark attributed to him by former Congress President, Rahul Gandhi about the KPs, Sinha said he has made no such statement and it was attributed to him with malicious intent.

"It is completely fabricated and full of lies. I have never used such words for anyone in my entire life. It is my firm belief that anyone who needs help should always be given priority. My doors are open 24 hours for those who has any problem. We are creating an environment to address your issues, efforts are being made for welfare of your children and families to ensure that entire community can contribute in the progress of J&K like it did in the past," he added.

Maintaining that all the posts under PM Package have been filled, the **More on P6**

WE ARE COMMITTED TO FULFILL THE EXPECTATION OF PEOPLE. Earlier, the laws were formulated to retrieve the properties of Kashmiri Pandit brothers but it was not implemented. We have taken immediate action and out of 8000 applications received on Migrant Portal around 6000 cases have been resolved. The administration and the security forces are working with dedication to ensure your safety."

S H O R T T A K E S

Another Avalanche Hits Gulmarg

A fresh avalanche hit the Affarwat peaks in the Gulmarg Valley on Saturday; days after two polish skiers were buried alive under an avalanche in the ski-resort. "Area has already been notified as a Red Zone and is restricted for any movement," a police spokesperson said in a tweet. "Tourists are once again advised not to venture and cooperate with Police," he added. Initial details suggested that there was no one at the spot when the incident happened. On February 1, a massive avalanche hit the upper **More on P6**

Soldier Injured In Mine Blast

An army jawan was injured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. The landmine went off when a group of soldiers were patrolling a forward area in the Kerni sector in the morning, they said. The injured soldier, Lance Naik Anshul Rawat, was immediately given medical aid and was later airlifted to the Command Hospital in Udhampur for specialised treatment, the officials said. As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, **More on P6**

JCO Dies Of 'Cardiac Arrest'

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of Assam Rifles died on Saturday in North Kashmir's Bandipora district after reportedly suffering a cardiac arrest. JCO Vivekanandu Daniyal of 26 Assam Rifles posted at Paribal Thikri army camp complained of chest pain after which he was evacuated to 92 Base Hospital Badamibagh for treatment, a local news agency KNT reported Saturday. However, the officer was declared dead. The report said that the JCO died apparently of cardiac arrest. The deceased was **More on P6**

Supreme Court Gets Five New Judges

Five judges were appointed to the Supreme Court on Saturday with the Centre clearing the names recommended by the Collegium on December 13 last year. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted to announce the appointment of Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court; Justice Sanjay Karol, Chief Justice, Patna High Court; Justice P V Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice, Manipur High Court; Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah of Patna High Court; and Justice Manoj Misra of Allahabad High Court as apex court judges. **More on P6**

Airfield Security Review In Jammu

IAF Officer Urges People To Report Suspicious Activities

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A top Indian Air Force officer on Saturday underlined the need to maintain strict vigil to ensure airfield security and urged people to provide timely information on any suspicious activities, according to a defence spokesperson.

Air Officer Commanding (AOC), Air Force Station Jammu, Air Commodore G S Bhullar said this while chairing an airfield security review meeting here, the spokesperson said.

Village heads from areas in the immediate vicinity of the Jammu airfield, officials of concerned civic agencies and key officials of the Airport Authority of India attended the meeting at the Air Force Station here.

Addressing the meeting, the

AOC highlighted the need for exercising strict vigil to prevent any untoward incidents and check any suspicious activities or drone sightings, and requested the stakeholders to promptly report them, the spokesperson said.

He also expressed concern over rampant garbage dumping around the Jammu airport and how it is contributing to heightened bird activity which might lead to aircraft accidents.

The officer urged all village heads and civic agencies to take steps to educate people in their areas about better waste segregation and disposal.

Garbage disposal in important areas in the vicinity of the Jammu airfield was also highlighted during the meeting, the spokesperson said. **More on P6**

Valley Witnesses Warm Sunny Day

Night Temp Rises Above Normal Amid Dry Weather Forecast

Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir Valley on Saturday witnessed a warm sunny day, even as the weather department predicted mainly dry weather for next 24 hours in J&K with very light rain and snow at one or two places of north Kashmir.

A meteorological department official said that there was a possibility of scattered light rain and snow during the subsequent two days.

Meanwhile amid cloud cover, the minimum temperature saw an increase except at a few places with Srinagar recording a low of 0.4°C against minus 0.6°C on the previous night. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by **More on P6**

Two Budgam Residents Held For Abducting Business Partner

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Two men were arrested from Phagwara in Punjab for allegedly abducting their 40-year-old business partner from Kashmiri Gate here over a monetary issue, police said on Saturday.

The accused, who introduced themselves as police officers before the taxi driver who was hired by them, were forcibly taking the

victim along with them to Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

They have been identified as Nishar Ahmad (48) and Imtiyaz Ahmad (48), both residents of Budgam district in Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Police got a PCR call on Thursday where a person said that some Kashmiri people took his brother-in-law Sayad Tarikh from near Kashmiri Gate. **More on P6**



New Platform Aims To Develop Novel Therapies For Rare Diseases

Press Trust Of India

Researchers are working on a new platform that aims to develop several treatments, including gene and mRNA therapies, for three "rare" diseases which are estimated to affect about one million people in India.

The Myo-Mission anchored by Ashoka University, Sonipat in partnership with 18 institutions and 38 investigators across India, will enhance capabilities for carrying out future clinical trials for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, GNE Myopathy and Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy (LGMD).

All the three diseases either lead to muscular weakness or muscle wasting, and can cause permanent disability.

"In India, estimates suggest that the three diseases combined affect about one million people. The burden of these debilitating, often incurable diseases is made greater by the rarity and lack of diagnosis and treatment options



in India," said Alok Bhattacharya, Professor of Biology at Ashoka University.

"Our goal is to develop patient cohorts, create a comprehensive database, and conduct research on disease progression to pave the way for clinical trials," Bhat-tacharya told PTI.

In its Phase 1, the mission plans to have five clinical centres in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and Anand in Gujarat that have been

managing patients of these diseases.

The mission researchers plan on different aspects such as developing systems or technology platforms for therapeutic molecules for treatment, as well as developing animal and cellular models for testing purposes.

The clinical groups associated with the mission will also monitor the progression of the disease for the Indian patients, the researchers said.

Such models for diseases such as GNE myopathy and LGMD have not been done for Indian patients and are required for carrying out clinical studies and drug trials, according to a statement.

The mission researchers, who have applied for funding from the government, are aiming at multiple types of treatments. This is because not all types of therapies are suitable for all patients as well as different diseases, the researchers said.

Availability of multiple therapies will help to provide clinical treatment to large fraction of patients, they said.

The platform being proposed are gene therapy, mRNA therapy, oligo-nucleotide-based therapies and small molecules that target known or novel disease associated molecules.

These technologies once developed, will also be useful for developing drugs for other diseases, according to the researchers.

A substantial fraction of all rare diseases are genetic disorders that mainly get inherited

from parents. Since human beings have about 25,000 genes, a mutation in a set of genes carries a disease risk.

Globally, it is estimated that there are about 7,000 types of rare diseases out of which about 80 per cent are likely to have a genetic basis. The clinical methods of diagnosis for such diseases exist, however they are often not conclusive.

Usually, the final diagnosis can only take place through DNA sequencing of both parents and children, however, this method is expensive and not affordable for a large section of the population, especially in lower and middle income countries.

In India, about 500 rare diseases have been identified, Bhat-tacharya said.

The number of individuals suffering from one particular disease in the country may be small, however given the population size and number of such diseases, the overall burden is estimated to be quite large, approximately 7 crore individuals, he said.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: NETAPS Foundation - Lead Generation Executive Internship 2023

Description: NETAPS Foundation - Lead Generation Executive Internship 2023 is an internship opportunity offered by NETAPS Foundation [a leading consulting and service-based company where are providing educational services (domestic and overseas)] via the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) internship portal to graduate students.

Eligibility: Open for graduate students with relevant skills and interests. The applicants must be available for a duration of 6 months.
Prizes & Rewards: INR 10,000 per month and other benefits

- Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TASD4

Scholarship Name 2: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship & Mentorship Programme 2022-23

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with



scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2022 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher secondary, 3-year graduation, and 4-year BDS Dental course. Annual family income of all applicants must

be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.
Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail of scholarship awards of up to INR 50,000 per year for up to 4 years of studies depending on their current level of education.

- Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KISF6

Scholarship Name 3: Saksham

Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children

Description: Mahindra Finance invites applications for the 'Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children' from students belonging to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. The scholarship is meant to support underprivileged and meritorious children of drivers (all light motor vehicles and small commercial vehicles such as Taxi, Jeep, Car & delivery vans such as Pickup, magic, school van etc) holding a valid driving license who are studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level

Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying at Class 1 to post-graduation level in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Applicants who are pursuing studies from Class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 4,00,000.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship ranging from INR 5,000 to INR 20,000 for 1 year

- Last Date to Apply: 28-02-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SKSP1

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With regards-
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The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Bi-annual 2005 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Mehmooda Bano
Parentage: Mohammad Sultan Parray
Roll No: 383410
Year/ Session 2005 Bi-annual



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

bb Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued as per below mentioned details:-

Roll NO: 383410
Class: 10th
Year / Session Annual Private 2005
Registration No: 02BF0392349
Name : Mehmooda Bano
Father's Name Mohamad Sultan Parray
Mother's Name : Afroza Begum
Date of Birth:- 15-11-1987
Resident:- Hajin



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/23
Dated 03-02-23

bb Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

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Will India Scrap Indus Water Treaty?

Broken treaties are a sign of war

Haider Abbas

“

It is now only a matter of days that IWT will be a fig leaf of the past. The result of the 90-days deadline, only time can tell but the treaty which had withstood three wars is now slated to become a relic of the past, that too, in times of the apparent peace

It has not even been a week since BBC broke the news, quoting from the upcoming book of Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, that after the Balakot strikes from India on Pakistan, in February 2019, there were apprehensions from New Delhi that Islamabad was preparing for a nuclear-strike on India.

Pompeo, according to the BBC report of January 26, has disclosed in his book, “Never Give An Inch: Fighting for the America I Love” that the US saved the region from an ultimate catastrophe by his (Pompeo’s) deft-diplomacy. But, after the news had hit the public domain, only a day later, on January 27, a report from The Hindu said that India wants to modify the India-Pakistan Indus Water Treaty (IWT) signed between the two nations in 1960.

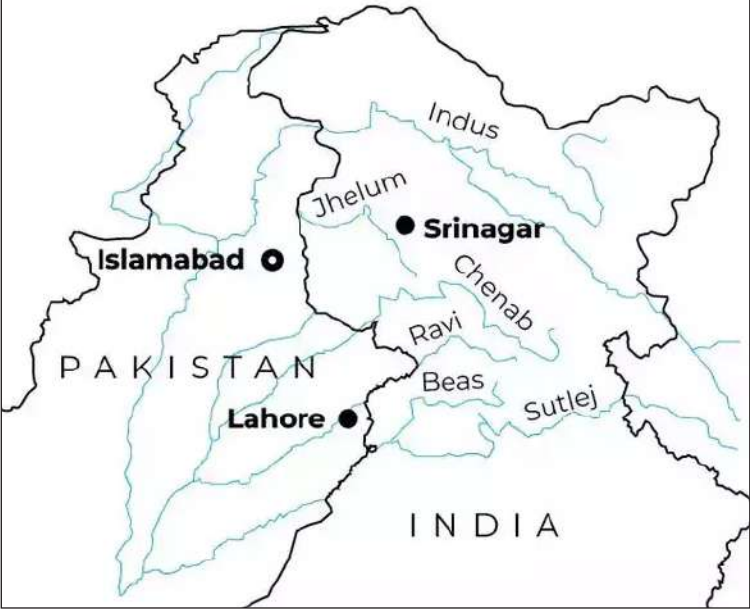
The biggest salvo has been fired by India on Pakistan, as now this 63-years-old treaty, which had weathered even the wars between India and Pakistan (1965, 1971, 1999) stands to be modified! The same report informed that India was compelled for the move, made officially on January 25, “owing to Pakistan’s persistent objections regarding India’s Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects in Kashmir. The notice was sent through Commissioners for Indus Waters that both sides have appointed under the treaty.” The Indian step has come after Pakistan had approached the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague over two hydropower projects in Jammu & Kashmir which Indian officials claim that Pakistan stance is against the agreed mode of dispute resolution.

This issuance of a notice of this kind, directly to Pakistan, perhaps for the first time since Independence, has quite understandably sent shock-waves across the whole spectrum, as India has been forced towards this step due to Pakistan’s actions. According to NDTV, “India is seeking modifications in the treaty to make it easier for Pakistan to enter into intergovernmental negotiations, within 90 days, and rectify the ‘material breach’ of IWT. This process would also update IWT to incorporate the lessons learned over the last 62 years.” Therefore, Pakistan has been issued a 90-days deadline to ‘respond’ or else supply of water to Pakistan might be in jeopardy. Nothing bigger

Division of rivers as per Indus Waters Treaty

Eastern rivers to India: Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

Western rivers to Pakistan: Chenab, Jhelum and Indus



of such kind has ever happened between India and Pakistan.

Broken treaties are a sign of war. The Second World War had started when the Treaty of Versailles was violated but unlike any other treaty, this IWT had always been considered to be one of the world’s most-sustained treaties. Yet now the threat of it getting-scraped is being largely speculated in the public domain.

What constitutes it?

It was signed by Pakistan President Ayub Khan and PM JL Nehru negotiated by the World Bank and despite conflicts India did not stop water from Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Sutlej, Beas and Ravi and in fact had given unfettered access to them for Pakistan. It can be anyone’s guess that had India blocked the waters of these rivers, Pakistan was to be instead in great-troubled-waters! Jhelum, Chenab and Indus were to be for Pakistan to exercise its control while India contended with Sutlej, Beas and Ravi and even in it, Pakistan had the right to put-into any objections, as sanctioned through the IWT.

If in case India was to build any power plant or a dam on these last three, Pakistan

had every right to raise its objections, initiate a dialogue and discuss its modalities.

But, there have now been many views, particularly from Right-Wing associations, even by Parliamentarians too, that it is high time India scraps the treaty. All of these rivers pass through Kashmir, which quite understandably makes Pakistan all the more jittery over the Kashmir issue. In case Pakistan is to stamp its control on the Indian part of Kashmir, on hypothetical terms, the entire water issue of Pakistan was to be easily solved. But, that is not to happen.

Pakistan became complacent and did not make compatible dams in the last six decades to meet its needs, while now India, had started to build Kishenganga Power Project (330 Megawatt, 5783 Cr, completed) and Ratle Hydro Electric Project (850 Megawatt, 5281 Cr and due to be completed soon). This raised Pakistan’s eyebrows and Pakistan contests that these two projects would hinder the water flow towards Pakistan and that India has breached the IWT. India contends that India was to ally Pakistan fears, as partners and as per sanctions of IWT, but Pakistan went ahead to call for a neutral expert by the World Bank in 2015, and also a separate arbitration into it too, to the angst of India. Pakistan wants India to stall these projects, which is impossible, as according to India, Pakistan has from its

side broken the IWT, as it has gone unilaterally for arbitration. In a series of tweets, senior advisor to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Kanchan Gupta has spelled the Indian position, about the impending dangers that India has now made its mind to make a final adieu to IWT.

Pakistan has retorted on the Indian ultimatum, and a war of words has ensued between the two nations. Pakistan has accused India to have engaged in attention diversion from the proceedings of the court of Arbitration, already in place at Hague, as per Tribune India on January 28, the notice from India had come hours after it. Pakistan has submitted through its attorney that the “resolution of disputes raised by Pakistan was a demonstration of India’s characteristic bad faith. Pakistan, on the other hand, has also said that ‘any risk of conflicting outcomes that India apprehends can be arrested through coordination and cooperation between the two fora. Therefore, Pakistan is engaging with both fora.” Pakistan has sought that the treaty cannot be unilaterally modified.

What however, ought to be referred is that on November 25, 2016, India’s PM Narendra Modi, had already signaled, according to The Hindu that “the water that rightfully belongs to India under the Indus Water Treaty cannot be allowed to go to Pakistan and government was working towards a mechanism for optimum utilisation of every single drop of water from Satluj, Ravi and Beas rivers. Under the Indus Water Treaty, India has the right over water of Satluj, Beas and Ravi rivers. It rightfully belongs to our farmers, but this water is not reaching the farmer’s field, instead the water is flowing to Pakistan.” Therefore, the lines are now drawn. The PM’s statement had come after the Uri attack, on September 18, 2016, in which 19 Indian soldiers were killed.

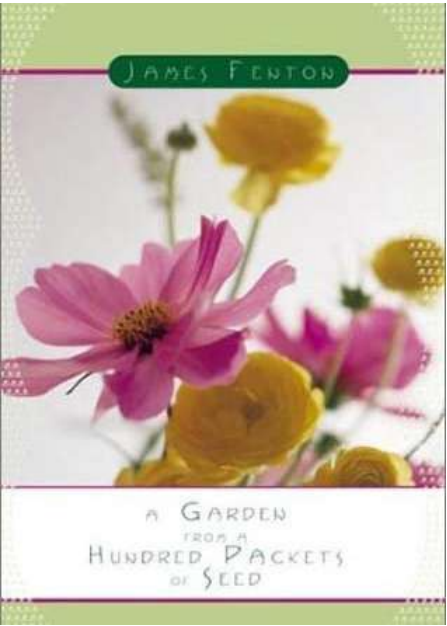
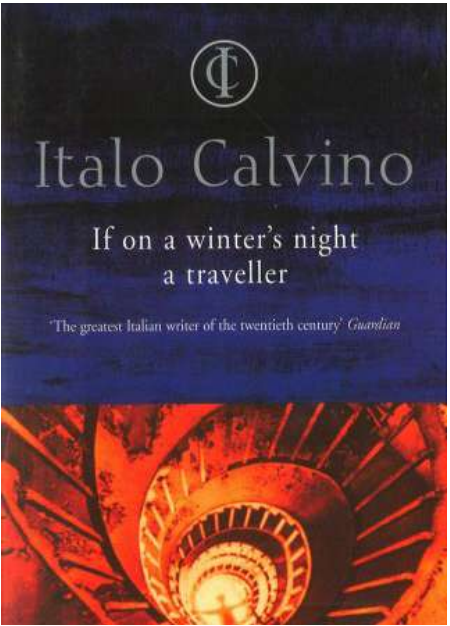
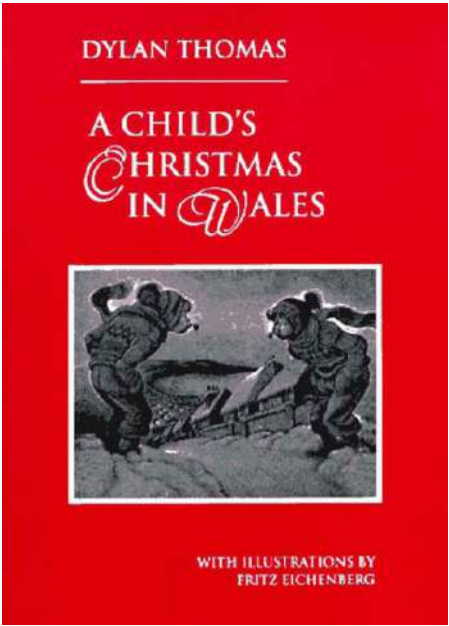
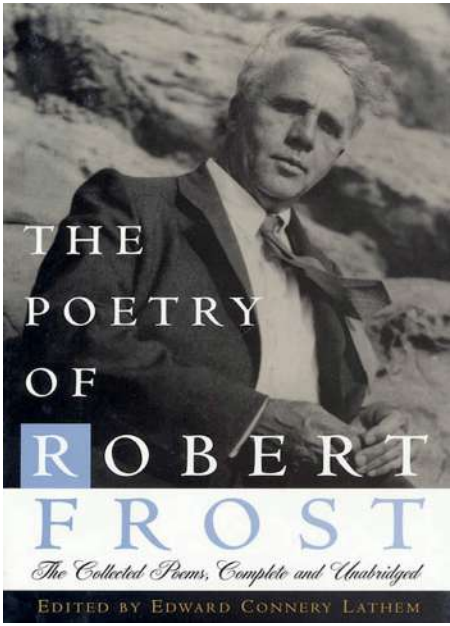
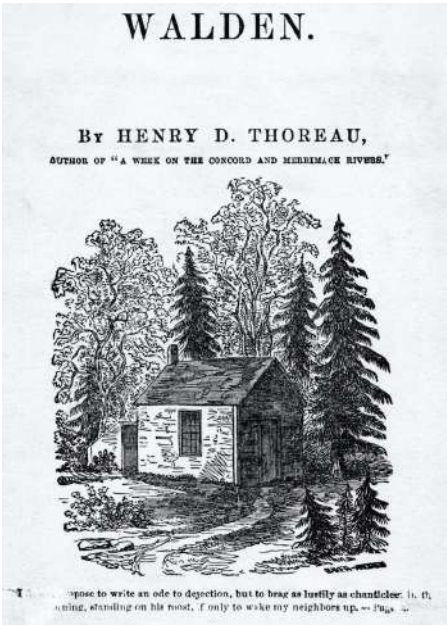
It is now only a matter of days that IWT will be a fig leaf of the past. The result of the 90-days deadline, only time can tell but the treaty which had withstood three wars is now slated to become a relic of the past, that too, in times of the apparent peace (sic). Let’s see what happens next.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The writer is a former UP State Information Commissioner and writes on international politics



5 WINTERY BOOKS To Read During Long Nights



Liz Rosenberg

Winter solstice brings the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It's a great night to spend reading. I've taught English and creative writing in snowy Binghamton, New York, for more than 40 years – reading, writing, reviewing and judging books all the while – so it's never hard for me to find something to read. Only to choose. To save you the same indecision, I've picked five books for the darkest time of the year.

1. Henry David Thoreau, "Walden Pond" (1854) Thoreau's "Walden Pond" is America's most celebrated nature book, filled with the author's observations of the woods near Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. "Walden" begins in July, but Thoreau welcomes winter in some of the book's most beautiful passages. "The north wind had already begun to cool the pond," Thoreau writes, when he "went into winter quarters." Not that he stayed indoors much. Most of us won't stretch out face down "on ice only an inch thick," as Thoreau reports doing, but we can read about him doing it while staying warm. Thoreau noticed frozen bubbles, stacked "like a string of beads" or "silvery coins poured from a bag." He catalogs – how he loves cataloging! – the

colors of the pond, from "transparent" to dark green to "opaque and whitish or gray." In winter he burned pine, decaying stumps, hickory, dry leaves and logs he'd dragged home while skating across the pond. Fuel provided him warmth, cooked food and company. "You can always see a face in the fire," Thoreau wrote. In winter he welcomed rare humans, such as fellow writer Louisa May Alcott's father, Bronson. But mostly he encountered foxes, squirrels, chickadees, jays and a barred owl that he described as the "winged brother of the cat." Thoreau delights in the sound of the ice booming in a thaw and describes moonlit rescues of hikers he escorted back to the edge of civilization. The five chilly chapters of "Walden" comprise a winter sampler for those who haven't read this mighty book – and for those returning to it.

2. Robert Frost, "The Poetry of Robert Frost" No poet sang of winter like poet laureate and New Englander Robert Frost. In his great "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" he pays homage to winter's solitude: "Between the woods and frozen lake/ The darkest evening of the year." "The Poetry of Robert Frost" weighs in at more than 600 pages. "You Come Too," a beautifully curated edition of poems for the young, is less than 100. Both books contain popular midwinter favorites. Even their titles suggest the

Winter unearths simplicity – the stark black-and-white vista it presents, the bare-boned landscape. It encourages readers to follow suit by ridding themselves of the extraneous and making room for life. As the celebrated saying goes, "If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but the same amount of snow."

poet's strong connection to winter: "Looking for a Sunset Bird in Winter"; "A Hillside Thaw" ("Ten million silver lizards out of snow!"); "Good-by and Keep Cold"; "A Patch of Old Snow." In "Birches," Frost writes of branches that turn raindrops into ice crystals melted by sunlight. Shattering and avalanching on the snow-crust – Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away You'd think the inner dome of heaven has fallen. Frost's poems are easily memorized and lovely to read aloud over any blustering gales.

3. Dylan Thomas, "A Child's Christmas in Wales" (1952) As Frost wrote for all ages, so did Dylan Thomas in "A Child's Christmas in Wales" – available in its original Tiffany blue New Directions paperback edition, decorated exquisitely with illustrations by Ellen

Raskin – a winter's poem made to be sung. We can even hear the poet chanting it aloud on his 1952 recording. One need not be Welsh to love Thomas' seaside childhood. One need not even celebrate Christmas. "One Christmas was so much like another," the poem opens, "that I can never remember whether it snowed/for six days and six nights when I was 12/or whether it snowed for 12 days and/12 nights when I was six."

4. Italo Calvino, "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler" (1979) Italo Calvino bundles magic, metafiction, philosophy, danger and love into "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler." It's Calvino's most mystifying work, challenging readers' assumptions about reading and storytelling. Not exactly a novel, it comprises the first chapter of 10 invented novels by 10 imaginary authors. Is it still winter? a reader may

wonder. Was it ever winter? As Calvino admits, "The only truth I can write is that of the instant I am living."

5. James Fenton, "A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seeds" (2002) Some gardeners spend all winter dreaming. Others spend it busily planning. "A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seeds" proposes a radically old-fashioned approach – to grow a garden simply sprung from seed. Author James Fenton explains, "[S]imple-mindedness was a part of what I was after: buy a packet of nasturtium seeds and plant them, grow some very tall sunflowers – this is what gardening should be all about." A garden doesn't need expensive starter plants or even a plan. The great question in life, as well as with gardens, is: What do I want to grow? Winter unearths simplicity – the stark black-and-white vista it presents, the bare-boned landscape. It encourages readers to follow suit by ridding themselves of the extraneous and making room for life. As the celebrated saying goes, "If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but the same amount of snow." Besides, as December ends, we turn the corner toward light.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Muslim-e-Awwal Shahe Mardan Ali DR IQBAL ON HAZRAT ALI

KO Web Desk

13TH of Rajab is the birth anniversary of Ali Ibn Abi Talib, the first Imam and fourth Caliph of Muslims. Thinker of The East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal who spear-headed the Muslim Renaissance in British India had a profound love for the progeny of Prophet (Pbuh). In one of his books, Asrar-e-Khudi, Iqbal had expressed his respectful love and admiration for Imam Hazrat Ali. Some of its extracts are reproduced below:

Muslim e awwal shahe mardan Ali
Ishq ra sarmaya e iman Ali
Ali is the first Muslim and the king of men, In Love's eyes, Ali is the Treasure of the faith

Az wilae dood manish zinda um
Dar jahan misle guhar tabinda um
Devotion to his family inspires me with life, so I am shining like a pearl

Az rukhe uo faal Paighambar grift
Millat e Haq az shikohish far grift
From Ali's face, the Prophet drew many a fair omen, by his majesty the true religion is glorified

Quwwat e deen e mubeen farmudaish
Kainaat aen pizeer az doodaish
His commandments are the strength of Islam, all things pay allegiance to his House

Mursal e Haq kard namish Bu Turab
Haq Yad Allah khawnad dar Ummul Kitab
The Apostle of God gave him the name Bu Turab (Father of soil), God

in the Quran called him
The Hand of Allah"

Sher e Haq ien khaak ra taskheer kard
Ien gile tareek ra akseer kard
Ali, The Lion of God subdued the body's clay and transmuted this dark Earth to gold

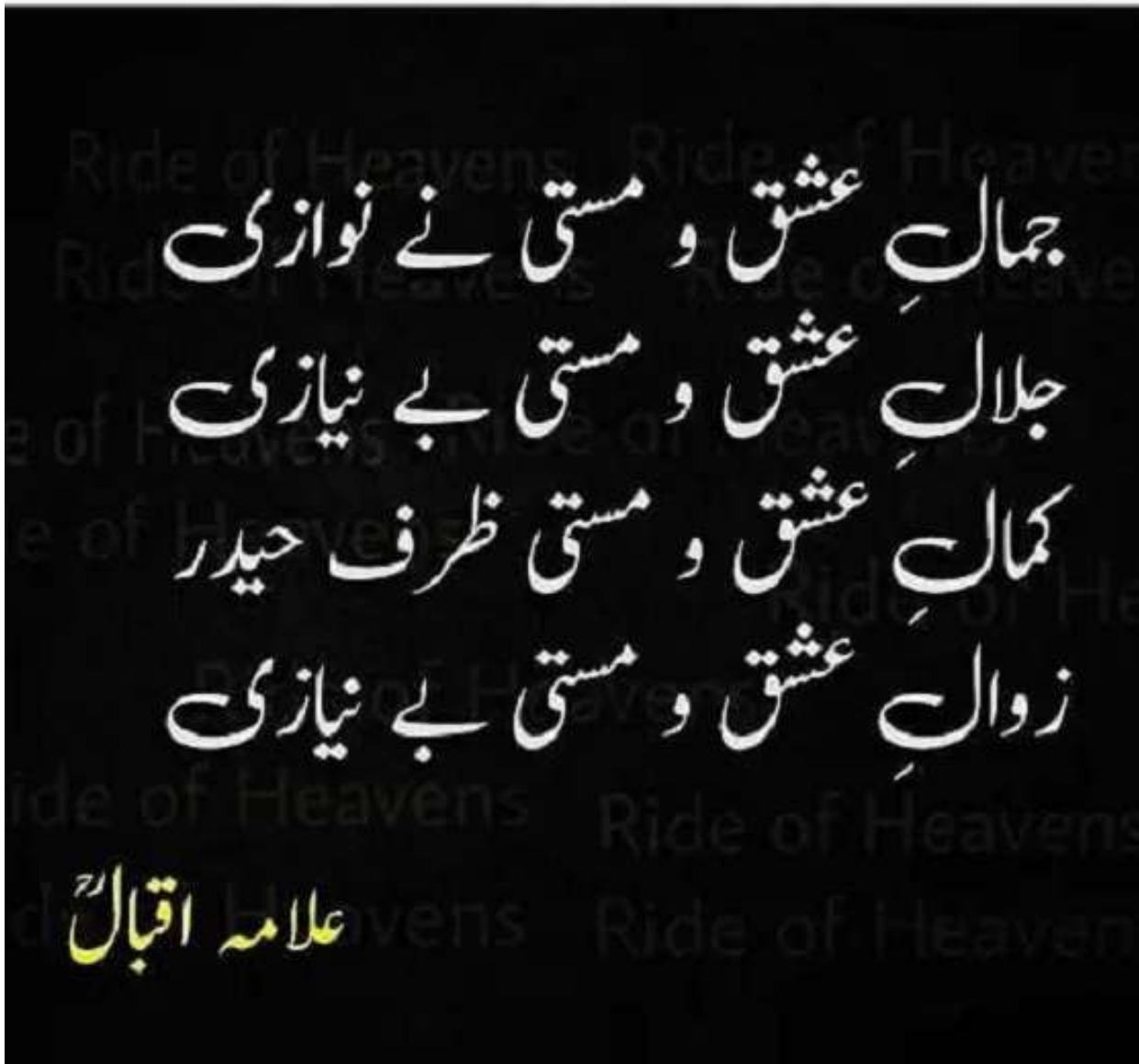
Murtaza kaz taigh e uo Haq raushan ast
Bu Turab az fathe aqleem e tan ast
Murtaza(a), by whose sword the splendor of truth was revealed, is named
Bu Turab from his conquest of the empire of body (clay)

Hark e dar afaaq gardad Bu Turab
Baaz gardanad za maghrib aftaab
Whosoever in the world if become a Bu Turab, turns back the Sun from West

Zaire paaish ienja shikohe Khyber ast
Dast e uo Unja khaseem e Kauser ast
Here the Might of Khyber is under his feet and in Hereafter his hand will distribute the water of Kauser.

Az khud aagahi Yadullahi kunad
Az Yadullahi shahinshahi kunad
Through self-knowledge, he acts as God's Hand and by virtue of being God's Hand/ he reigns over everything

Zaat e uo darwaza e shahre uloom
Zair e farmanish Hijaz o Cheen o Room
He is the Gateway of the City of Knowledge; Arabia, China, and Greece are under his governance



Jamia Nagar Violence: Discharging Sharjeel Imam And 10 Others, Court Says They Were Made 'Scapegoats', Dissent Has To Be 'Encouraged'

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A court here on Saturday discharged 11 people including student activists Sharjeel Imam and Asif Iqbal Tanha, who participated in anti-CAA protests, in the 2019 Jamia Nagar violence case, saying they were made "scapegoats" by police and that dissent has to be encouraged, not stifled.

Noting that the accused were merely present at the protest site and there was no incriminating evidence against them, the court said dissent is an extension of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, subject to reasonable restrictions.

It said investigative agencies need to discern the difference between dissent, which has to be given space, and insurrection that should be quelled.

The court, however, ordered the framing of charges against one of the accused, Mohammad Ilyas.

"Marshalling the facts as brought forth from a perusal of the charge sheet and three supplementary charge sheets, this court cannot but arrive at the conclusion that the police were unable to apprehend the actual perpetrators behind the commission of the offence, but surely managed to rope the persons herein as scapegoats," Additional Sessions Judge Arul Varma said.

The court faulted the police for failing to produce any WhatsApp chats, SMS or other proof of the accused interacting with each other and criticised it for "arbitrarily"

choosing to array some people from the crowd as accused and police witnesses, saying this "cherry-picking" by the police is detrimental to the precept of fairness.

An FIR was lodged in connection with the violence that erupted after a clash between police and people protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the Jamia Nagar area here in December 2019.

Imam was accused of instigating the riots by delivering a provocative speech at the Jamia Milia University on December 13, 2019. He will continue to remain in jail as he is an accused in the larger conspiracy case of the 2020 northeast Delhi riots.

The judge said there were admittedly scores of protesters at the site and some anti-social elements within the crowd could have created an environment of disruption and havoc.

"However, the moot question remains -- whether the accused persons herein were even prima facie complicit in taking part in that mayhem? The answer is an unequivocal no," he added.

The court said the legal proceedings against the 11 accused were initiated in a "perfunctory and cavalier fashion" and "allowing them to undergo the rigmarole of a long-drawn trial does not augur well for the criminal justice system of the country".

"Furthermore, such police action is detrimental to the liberty of citizens who choose to exercise their fundamental right to peacefully assemble and protest. The liberty of the

protesting citizens should not have been lightly interfered with," it said.

The court said dissent is an extension of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, subject to reasonable restrictions.

Referring to a 2012 verdict of the Supreme Court, the judge said the court is duty-bound to lean towards an interpretation that protects the rights of the accused, given the ubiquitous power disparity between them and the state machinery.

The court said the investigative agencies needed to discern the difference between dissent and insurrection.

"The latter (insurrection) has to be quelled indisputably. However, the former (dissent) has to be given space, a forum, for dissent is perhaps reflective of something which pricks a citizen's conscience," it said.

The court also said dissent has to be encouraged and not stifled, with the condition that it should be absolutely peaceful, without degenerating into violence.

The judge said the probe agency should have incorporated the use of technology or gathered credible intelligence against the accused.

"Else, it should have abstained from filing such ill-conceived chargesheets qua persons whose role was confined only to being a part of a protest," he said.

"Considering the fact that the case of the state is devoid of irrefragable evidence, all the persons charge-sheeted, barring Mohammad Ilyas, are hereby

discharged for all the offences for which they were arraigned. They be set at liberty, if not wanted in any other case," the court said in its order.

It also said, "It is apparent that the police have arbitrarily chosen to array some people from the crowd as accused, and others from the same crowd, as police witnesses. This cherry-picking by the police is detrimental to the precept of fairness".

The court said photographs of Ilyas showed him hurling a burning tyre and that he was duly identified by police witnesses.

"Therefore, charges levelled in the charge sheet be framed... (against) accused Mohammad Ilyas," the judge said.

"Needless to say, the investigative agency is not precluded from conducting further investigation in a fair manner...in order to bring to book the actual perpetrators, with the adjuration not to blur lines between dissenters and rioters, and to desist from henceforth arraigning innocent protesters," he added.

The court posted the matter to April 10 for the framing of charges against Ilyas.

Noting that the charge sheets filed in the case had "nothing new to offer", the court said, "This filing of a slew of charge sheets must cease, else this juggernaut reflects something beyond mere prosecution and would have the effect of trampling the rights of accused persons".

The court said the accused were merely present at the spot and there was no incriminating

evidence against them.

"No overt act or participation in the commission of offences was attributed to them. There are no eyewitnesses who could substantiate the version of the police that the accused persons were in any way involved in the commission of the offences," the court said.

It also said there was no prohibitory order in the area where the protests took place.

The court said the charge sheet failed to elaborate on the unlawful common object of the accused and there was no evidence regarding the accused sharing the common object with each other and with the crowd in general.

The judge said the test of positive knowledge was also missing in the charge sheet.

"The accused were protesting against a piece of legislation and sloganeering against enactment thereof. Positive knowledge that their sloganeering would result in such a maelstrom is something that cannot be attributed to them sans any cogent proof," the judge said.

Quashing the charge of conspiracy, the court said the prosecution did not submit any proof that there was an agreement or conspiracy between the accused.

"The prosecution did not place any WhatsApp chats, SMS or even proof of the accused persons interacting with each other...even in the photographs, all the 12 accused are not standing side by side and in the video also, they are not seen signalling or talking to each other," the court said.

SC Notes Insurmountable Obstacles In Implementation Of Living Wills, Eases Procedure To Make It Workable

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Taking note of the "insurmountable obstacles" in the implementation of advance medical directives of terminal-ly-ill patients, the Supreme Court has eased the procedure to make it more workable.

A living will is an advance medical directive on end-of-life treatment.

The Supreme Court's 2018 order on passive euthanasia, wherein it recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right and an aspect of Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution, notwithstanding, people wanting to get a "living will" registered were facing problems due to cumbersome guidelines, prompting a reconsideration by the apex court.

Issuing a slew of modifications, a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Justice KM Joseph, has made the role of doctors and hospitals more important in the mechanism.

The court has said the difficulties being encountered have been voiced by a large number of doctors and it has become absolutely necessary for the apex court to revisit its directions.

The court said a living will now be signed by the executor in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and attested before a notary or gazetted officer.

"It should specify the name of a guardian(s) or close relative(s) who, in the event of the executor becoming incapable of taking decisions at the relevant time, will be authorised to give consent to refuse or withdraw medical treatment in a manner consistent with the advance directive.



"The document should be signed by the executor in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and attested before a notary or gazetted officer," the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, said.

The witnesses and the notary or the gazetted officer shall record their satisfaction that the document has been executed voluntarily and without any coercion or inducement or compulsion and with full understanding of all the relevant information and consequences, it added.

According to the top court's 2018 order, a living will was needed to be signed by the person making it, in the presence of two witnesses and a judicial magistrate of first class (JMFC).

The top court also agreed to the suggestion that the executor shall inform and hand over a copy of the advance directive, if any, to the family physician.

The executor may also choose to incorporate the advance directive as a part of the digital health records, if any, it said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Administration Speeds

from the illegal occupants," they said.

In South Tehsil of the District, the officials said, a team headed by Tehsildar, Maeen Kakroo conducted a massive anti-encroachment drive in KP Bagh and retrieved 40 kanal and 17 marlas of Kahcharai land worth Rs 51 crore from the encroachers.

"Similarly, in Khushipora and Rampura villages of Central Shalteng Tehsil, 21 kanals of Kahcharai land worth Rs 16 crore has been evicted from the land grabbers including a commercial complex, while in Chanapora Tehsil over 87 kanal and 11 marlas of Kahcharai land was also evicted from land grabbers in Laloo Sheshgari Bagh and Nowgam area having value of Rs 42.5 crore," they said.

In Khanyar Tehsil, the officials said, 34 kanal of state land was also retrieved in Nishat and Brane areas worth Rs 14.64 crore under survey no. 43, 3557, 2919 and 3157.

An official told Kashmir Observer that land measuring two kanal was retrieved from the illegal possession of Supreme Court advocate Shabnum Lone at Kral Sangri area in Nishat. She is the sister of former Minister and Chairman of Peoples Conference, Sajad Gani Lone.

"The outer wall, gate and a small structure constructed on the government land bearing survey No. 3557 was also demolished," he added.

Meanwhile, the residents of Padshahibagh staged a protest on Saturday morning after the team of revenue officials reached the area to undertake an eviction drive.

The locals alleged that the authorities, without serving any notice to them, knocked down several tin structures besides razing an outer wall to the ground.

"We know this is Kahcharai land, but where was the government when these structures were raised? Raja Begum, a protester asked.

She alleged that the ongoing drive was not affecting rich people but rendering poor masses 'homeless'.

A rag-picker from West Bengal alleged that the revenue officials without any second thought directed the demolition squad to bring down his temporary residence, leaving his family 'homeless'.

"I have been paying Rs11, 000 rent for my godown and residence to the landlord for the last 20 years. Where will I go with my family now in this harsh winter? He asked, while tears trickled down his cheeks.

In the Chattabal area, the authorities sealed a shopping complex claiming it was built on State land.

However, advocate Shoaib Zahoor, owner of the property, said the particular chunk of land was allotted to him by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) through an open auction in 2004.

"I was the highest bidder and deposited Rs 42,50,000 and on that basis, I was allotted this land in 2007 The J-K High Court gave me possession completely in 2012 after some unscrupulous persons alongwith the Revenue Department wanted to take this land.

"We are not encroachers, we have due regard for the law. In 2018, the High Court upheld the allotment as legal and valid. On that basis, I got the commercial building permission from the competent authority (SMC) in 2019," Zahoor said.

He said they were not served any notice for

the sealing of the building.

At Humhama in Budgam district, one kanal state land was retrieved from the occupation of former director of Farooq Renu Shah. Boundary wall around the land was also demolished during the drive.

Tehsildar Hurt

move and attacked the officials who were doing their duty, leading to minor injuries to Baramulla Tehsildar Kifayat Ali, the officials said.

The anti-encroachment drive was intensified across the valley on Saturday, with state land worth crores of rupees retrieved from the illegal occupation of many, including influential people.

3 Stone Crushers

drives were held as they failed to pay heed to the Government notices," they said.

The officials said that while removing boundary walls and allied structures, the encroachers were given a week's time to remove the machinery from the spot failing which the machinery will also be seized.

Eviction Drive

However, later in the evening, police used batons and burst tear smoke shells to disperse the protesters who had blocked the road. The outbreak of clashes prompted many people to take shelter in the nearby Wave Mall. A policeman sustained injury during the clashes. Additional reinforcements were rushed to the spot to contain the situation.

J&K Eyes 10-15%

"We are focused on sustainable tourism in both old and new destinations. We are not looking at concretisation in these areas," Singh said.

The Union Territory, he said, is focused on experience tourism offering niche products, including meetings, incentives, conventions and events (MICE), golfing, paragliding, bird watching, river rafting, kayaking and new trekking routes, among others.

Jammu and Kashmir's tourism is currently participating in the 3-day Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) 2023, which began on February 2.

The event saw the participation of over 1,250 exhibitors from 50 countries and 30 Indian states/UTs, showcasing their destinations to boost tourism.

LG Dismisses

"absolutely not".

Uttarakhand's Joshimath — the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib — is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence.

"I do not have much knowledge (about the reasons for the development of cracks in structures in Doda village). We should have faith in the expert opinion and let them analyse and come out with facts," Sinha said.

A team of Geological Survey of India officials has reached Doda for a detailed analysis and they are going to submit their findings to the government.

On Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the "insensitive" approach of his administration towards the "plight" of Kashmiri Pandit employees, the Lt Governor said that he is saying it with full responsibility that he "cannot use the word" beggar for anyone.

"I do not need to comment on this. Some people come, enjoy and return... Had I said this, it would have been on record. I am saying with full responsibility that I cannot use such a word for anyone," he said. Gandhi, in his letter to Modi, had said, "At a time when the Kashmiri Pandits are pleading for their safety... and expecting sympathy and affection from the government, use of words like 'beggars' by the Lt Governor for them is irresponsible. Prime Minister, you may not be familiar with the insensitive style of functioning of the administration."

GSI Team Visit

cracks in 19 residential houses, a mosque and a religious school for girls.

Mahajan, who along with other senior officers including Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom met the affected families, said the GSI team will submit its report soon.

Over 100 members of 19 families were evacuated after their houses developed cracks. Three of the houses collapsed on Friday.

The Deputy Commissioner assured all possible help to the affected families and said a relief camp with all necessary facilities has been set up for them.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Thathri, Athar Amin Zargar said administration is closely monitoring the situation and all necessary and precautionary measures are being taken for the safety of the people.

Govt Sensitive

LG said that his administration has made all the arrangements for construction of 6000 dwellings.

"Except two, the construction is underway on all the sites. I am personally monitoring the progress. By this April, 1200 houses and till December 2700 houses will be ready. All the pending promotions were completed recently. The process of promotion from Non-gazetted to gazetted is going on and I hope that it will be completed by the end of this month," he said.

He added that that 80% to 85% PM Package employees are posted at district headquarters, while some are posted at tehsil headquarters after the security audit of the areas.

"We have ensured that no one is posted at any office or school situated in a remote isolated area," he said.

"We are committed to fulfill the expectation of people. Earlier, the laws were formulated to retrieve the properties of Kashmiri Pandit brothers but it was not implemented. We have taken immediate action and out of 8000 applications received on Migrant Portal around 6000 cases have been resolved. The administration and the security forces are working with dedication to ensure your safety," he added.

On this occasion, Sinha also directed the concerned departments for the up-gradation of community hall and a playground.

Earlier, the LG also inaugurated a Special Governance Camp for the community members.

The 12-day long camp at 6 locations is aimed to ensure 100% saturation of Social security schemes for Kashmiri migrants. 18 departments have put up their stalls at the camp including the facilities for enrolment of youth for self employment, skilling and up-skilling.

"Directive has been issued to organize such special governance camps for POJK brothers

and sisters to ensure saturation of social security schemes, self-employment and skilling," the LG added.

Seeks NCC

contribute towards a successful conduct of a G20 event scheduled to take place in Srinagar.

The LG was interacting with the NCC cadets who took part in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on January 26. He congratulated the contingent from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for securing the fourth position among the 17 NCC directorates.

The selection of 17 NCC cadets for the march on Kartavya Path in New Delhi, as part of a combined contingent of the NCC at the national level, and that of seven cadets for the Guard of Honour was indeed a great feat, Sinha said.

Hosting the cadets at the Raj Bhawan here, the LG said, "Drug addiction has emerged as the biggest challenge for the society. The NCC cadets, along with the youth clubs, need to actively participate in the campaigns against the drug menace."

Lauding the NCC's role in the grooming of youngsters and rendering yeoman's service to achieve the overall objective of aligning youngsters with the national mainstream, he said the cadets are the symbol of youth power.

"The world's largest uniformed youth organisation, NCC has a greater responsibility to contribute towards the effective implementation of the National Education Policy and the flagship programmes of the government," Sinha said.

He said youngsters, especially those from the border areas, should be encouraged to enrol themselves in the NCC in order to spread the values of humanity, patriotism and selfless service.

"The awareness campaigns of the NCC on many issues and topics like environmental protection are commendable. It should be our aim to promote youth leadership in different fields," he said.

Valley Witnesses

1.1°C for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of minus 3.0°C against minus 2.6°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of 0.9°C against minus 1.5°C on the previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.8°C against minus 2.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 5.5°C against minus 7.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 1.8°C against minus 0.8°C on the previous night and it was 4.1°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 8.9°C against 7.2°C °C on the previous night. It was 0.5°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 1.8°C (above normal by 1.0°C), Batote 5.8°C (above normal by 3.7°C), Katra 9.5°C (2.5°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 2.4°C (3.0°C above normal).

Two Budgam

The caller was contacted who said that he was calling from Kashmir, a senior police

officer said.

Local inquiry with passersby and vendors near the area was conducted and all tour and travel offices were visited.

During the inquiry, it was revealed that two Kashmiri men abducted another Kashmiri from Hare Rama Travels, Kashmir Gate. The CCTV footage near Hare Rama Travels were analysed and it was revealed that the accused forcibly took the other Kashmiri in a taxi. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

During investigation, the CCTV footages were checked and it was revealed that the alleged vehicle was travelling towards Kashmir through GT Karnal Road. They were immediately chased and message was immediately flashed to SSPs in Haryana and Punjab, police said.

Later, the abductors were intercepted in Phagwara city with the help of Punjab Police. The victim was rescued and both his associates were arrested, the DCP said.

Interrogation revealed that both the parties are business partners and there was a money dispute of Rs 55 lakh between the victim and the accused who deal in saffron and shawl, police said.

The victim was not in position to repay his debt. When the victim opposed, the accused threatened to kill him. They also threatened him to quietly go with them to Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

According to police, the victim's friend was with him when the accused met him. They did not take his friend along with them who later informed the family members of about the incident.

They were planning to recover Rs 55 lakh from the family members of the victim after abducting him.

Another Avalanche

reaches of the famous ski resort, leading to the death of two Polish skiers and trapping 21 other people including 19 foreigners and two local guides who were rescued from the slopes that had been declared a "no go zone".

Soldier Injured

forward areas are dotted with landmines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such types of accidents, they said.

JCO Dies Of

a resident of Uttarakhand state. Meanwhile, Police Post Aloosa has started proceedings under CrPc 174 in this regard.

Supreme Court

Once they take oath early next week, the strength of the apex court will go up to 32 judges.

At present the top court is functioning with 27 judges, including the Chief Justice of India. Its sanctioned strength, including the CJ, is 34.

Their appointments come amidst strong observations by a Supreme Court bench questioning the delay on part of the government in appointing and transferring judges based on the recommendations of the SC Collegium.

A senior government functionary said the five appointments have nothing to do with the bench's observation and were made after the Centre took a considered decision.

The appointments came in due course, he added.

Gupta Orders Pace In E-Buses Project, Operations By April

Directs CEOs Of JSCL, SSCL To Monitor Work, Submit Weekly Report

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Dheeraj Gupta, on Saturday chaired a review meeting on electric buses project for twin capital cities of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and directed the officials to expedite the process for its completion in stipulated time frame.

Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), Rahul Yadav, General Manager (Finance), JSCL & nodal officer for e-buses project J&K, Ashish Anand and representatives of TATA motors led by K Vijay Menon, Chief Operations Officers, K. Sanjeeva Rao- General Manager Govt & Public Affairs & Business Development were present in the meeting while Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Athar Aamir and other officials participated virtually.

Rahul Yadav gave a detailed presentation on progress on the project, achieved so far.

He informed that the land for depots have been identified in both the cities and handed over to TATA motors limited. The meeting was also apprised of tentative routes for plying electric buses.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary urged upon TATA Motors to complete the construction of depots and ensure the delivery of electric buses within committed time frame.

"Buses should be delivered by April and operationalised at the earliest," Dheeraj Gupta directed the TATA motors.

He asked CEOs of Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) to finalise routes in consultation with Deputy Commissioners as well as transport department of the Union Territory.

Dheeraj Gupta added that all the planning and statutory work should be completed by February 15th. He added that this is a priority project and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, is personally monitoring the work as Jammu and Kashmir is bracing up for G20 meeting this year.

He further directed the CEOs of JSCL and SSCL to monitor the work and submit weekly progress report. He also asked the Divisional Commissioners of both regions to hold meeting for clearing bottlenecks.

Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir government is procuring a fleet of 200 electric buses, 100 each for capital cities of the Union Territory, Jammu and Srinagar.

Police Books 8 Landlords In Reasi For Not Sharing Tenant Details

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Eight cases were registered against land owners, including hoteliers, for not providing details of tenants to police in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said on Saturday.

Four cases each were registered at the Katra and the Reasi police stations under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the official said.

He said all landlords and hotel owners had been directed to submit details of their tenants

and domestic helps to the police stations concerned.

Police have verified the identities of 326 tenants staying in different areas of the district so far, the official added.

He said the verification process was initiated after several instances of anti-national elements staying in residential areas in the guise of tenants and domestic helps came to the fore in Jammu.

Police are conducting random verification of various localities, the official said.

Zero Tolerance Policy Against Drug Abuse: DC Pulwama



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Basheer-ul-Haq Choudhary on Saturday convened a meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD).

At the outset, the DC discussed various issues related to menace of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug peddling, abuse, besides, cultivation of illicit poppy and cannabis in the district.

He emphasised on conducting awareness camps in schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs. The Education Department was asked to promote anti drug abuse awareness in all educational institutions and its ill effects on society. The DC directed CEO to ensure that no tobacco product is sold near educational institutions as per rules.

The DC directed all concerned officers for immediate completion of mapping of land used for bhanga and poppy cultivation. He also directed CAO and CHO to explore avenues for growing alternative crops in these areas besides providing valuable inputs to land owners.

He asked officers of all line departments to make coordinated efforts to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain besides taking stringent action against the persons involved in this dangerous trade.

Choudhary said, in order to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged rehabilitation, counseling and

guidance policy is being implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace.

He sought cooperation from the religious heads, families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which also leads to other social evils and crimes.

The DC assured the departments that all requisite support will be provided by the District Administration for saving youth from the ill effects of the drugs.

The DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Pulwama and CMO Pulwama to get CCTV cameras installed at all medical shops, clinical establishments and chemist/ druggist shops which lie within the limits of schools, colleges, hospitals and masjids so that overall surveillance with regard to the containment of drug sales is enforced.

He also directed the Assistant Drug Controller to establish a 24*7 flying squad to check the unauthorised functioning of Chemists besides checking the sales of contraband drugs in the district.

The Police Department was asked to keep strict vigil against drug proliferation, consumption and intensifying awareness against such addictive substances involving concerned stakeholders from civil administration.

On the occasion, Officers apprised about the situation with regard to the drug menace and shared their suggestions and measures to be taken at District level to control the drug peddling and its consumption, besides measures for rehabilitation of drug victims.

Govt Has Intensified Women Entrepreneurship Movement: LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that Jammu and Kashmir is the second state/UT in the country after Andhra Pradesh, which has created a dedicated industrial estate for women entrepreneurs.

"Women entrepreneurs will be the main sustaining force of socio-economic growth. SHGs have been doing praiseworthy work in supporting women artisans and entrepreneurs in rural areas," he said.

The LG made these remarks during the inauguration of 11-day long SARAS Aajeevika Mela at the Aquaplex Crown Bagh-e-Bahu here on Saturday.

He congratulated the J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) and Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj for inviting Self-Help Groups women entrepreneurs from across the country.

The exhibition is the largest gathering of rural women Self-Help Groups from 15 States/UTs to showcase their skills and build the linkage with bulk buyers.

The LG said the first budget of Amrit Kaal has given priority to the women and as many as 81 lakh Self Help Groups will be enabled to reach the next stage of economic empowerment through formation of large producer enterprises.

Sinha also shared the efforts of the government to promote women entrepreneurship in J&K UT.

"Various new schemes like Saath, Hausla in J&K UT, aims to assist Self-Help Groups to enhance their business, training and support for bet-

Flags Off SKUAST-Jammu Students On US Tour

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off a batch of nine undergraduate students from SKUAST-Jammu on Saturday on an exposure cum training programme to Kansas State University, USA.

The 60-day long capacity-building fellowship will expose the students to global learning ecosystem & industry establishment.

The Lt Governor interacted with the students and congratulated them upon their selection to the fellowship.

The students will be visiting the Kansas State Univer-

sity under the Student Overseas Fellowship Programme of National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & World Bank.

The group includes undergraduate students of Faculty of Agriculture, School of Biotechnology and Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry from the Agriculture University.

Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu and other associated faculty members were also present at Raj Bhavan.

ter packaging, branding and marketing so they can scale up the operations to serve the consumer markets across the country," he said.

"Within a short period of time, around six lakh women from the rural areas have been associated with 74,000 Self-Help Groups in Jammu Kashmir," he added.

The LG further said that his administration has intensified the women entrepreneurship movement by providing financial assistance without guarantees, training and necessary support so that Nari Shakti can contribute in the journey of Atmanirbhar Jammu Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the second state/UT in the country after Andhra Pradesh, which has created a dedicated industrial estate for women entrepreneurs.

Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi Programmes have been launched under the Rural Livelihood Mission to make women economically independent," he said.

He expressed hope that SARAS Aajeevika Mela will give renewed push to One District One Product initiative.

On the occasion, the LG released SARAS Patrika, showcasing the journey of J&K Rural Livelihood Mission.

Sinha also launched the official website of JKRLM and a toll-free helpline. The facilities will help JKRLM to get feedback on its services and also inform the general public about the Mission. The website is designed with a focus to provide a marketing linkage to SHGs and strengthen the linkage between buyers & sellers.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE

Issue Formal Order To Spare Poor: Azad Urges LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and the chairman Democratic Azad Party (DAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday urged Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to issue a written order to authorities not to trouble poor and needy people who have small land holdings.

Addressing party workers here on Saturday, Azad said that the ongoing anti-encroachment drive by the government is triggering chaos and anxiety among the common people as the authorities are not abiding by the directions of LG and are mostly troubling the poor.

"Who shall we believe, the Raj Bhawan says poor will be spared, the divisional commissioner office issues different directions while on the ground district authorities have different yardsticks to remove encroachments," he said.

Azad said that his party wants a written assurance from LG that clearly mentions the parameters for the anti-encroachment drive.

He also announced that his party was putting off UT-wide protests against the eviction drive following assurances from Home minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha that land will only be retrieved from mafias.

"We have decided to call off the protests for now since we received assurance from the highest authorities. Let's



watch and see how things are unfolding on the ground," the former CM said.

However, Azad said that his party will not stand by the rich people who have encroached huge swaths of land and built mansions over it.

"Those who have captured small pieces of land and have built homes or shops to feed their families must not be touched by the authorities. We can't snatch their livelihood or render them homeless when it is the responsibility of the state to think and work for the welfare of people," he said.

Azad said that the tribal communities like Gujjar and Bakerwal are facing the worst conditions with this anti-encroachment drive who are being snatched the land allotted for grazing their cattle and herds.

"These communities have been provided land to graze the cattle or herds for de-

cades. But now the government in the name of Kahchrai encroachment is forcing them to vacate. Where shall they go? It is an inhuman and anti-poor approach which is not acceptable to us at all," he said.

The former CM said that hundreds of families, especially Kashmiri Pandits during the peak of militancy from Chenab and Kashmir Valleys were forced to migrate to relatively safer region of Jammu after selling all their assets back home to buy plots in the winter capital.

"They built homes in Jammu to escape militancy. Later, the successive regimes regularised the areas and provided them basic facilities like water, electricity and roads. Now the present government says they are all illegally settled and want to remove them. This can't happen and we will not allow it," he said.



Dr Sehrish Chairs Civil Military Liaison Meet

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: To ensure better coordination between Civil administration and the armed forces in resolution of various issues of public importance in Baramulla district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar on Saturday chaired a first of its kind Civil Military Liaison meeting at Dak Bungalow Sopore, here.

Among officers of Army including COs of 22 RR and 32 RR, the meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore, Shabir Nawab; President Municipal Council Sopore, Masarat Kar; Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Yousuf Rather; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad and other concerned functionaries.

In her opening remarks, Dr Sehrish showed her satisfaction for the transformation of Sopore and its adjoining areas besides extending her appreciation to all the concerned officers who worked with dedication for the betterment and development of the town.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC spelt out the importance of holding the civil military meeting for better coordination between civil administration and armed forces in resolution of various issues of public importance.

During the meeting, the DC resolved various developmental issues of public importance and directions were passed for implementation of decisions

taken on the spot.

It was given out that installation of street cameras and solar lights at various significant locations of Sopore town will be taken up for execution.

The meeting also discussed relocation of street vendors of Sopore town wherein DC directed for demarcation of land to relocate/ rehabilitate the street vendors. Dr Sehrish directed MC Sopore to regulate street vendors through registration and capping.

Among other vital issues, a detailed discussion was held on road dividers in the area during which it was decided that portable dividers will be placed at prominent spots for their mobility during any exigency. Road connectivity in Rafiabadi sector and demarcation of land for Slaughter house at Sopore was also discussed in detail.

Moreover, it was also deliberated that the Drug De-addiction center should also be executed at Sopore so that proper counseling of the victims would be possible in the area.

Meanwhile, Officers of Army and Civil administration also spoke on the occasion wherein it was deliberated that the co-ordination and liaison between civil and military forces is important for the progress and prosperity of the district.

Furthermore, Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore said that the Sopore Police is always available on the front for eradication of social evils and other measures.

HC Rolls Out Virtual Case Hearing For Ladakh

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Under the effervescent patronage and guidance of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, the High Court on Saturday rolled out an initiative of taking up the Judicial matters of UT of Ladakh through virtual mode by allowing the parties and lawyers to appear and plead their cases for appearing in their respective matters. This will save time besides being financially viable for both parties of the case.

In its first kind of initiative, the Court of Justice Tashi Rabstan today heard the matters of UT of Ladakh virtually, in which the lawyers and government representatives who were petitioners and the respondents in the listed cases appeared in virtual mode from Leh and pleaded their cases.

As many as, six (6) matters of the UT of Ladakh were listed today before the Bench, in

which the virtual proceedings were conducted.

In the today's era of technology, conducting the proceedings of a case virtually by connecting different locations on one platform is going to be a big boon in the judicial dispensation. Rolling out such a facility for the people of Ladakh by the High Court is aimed at easing out the sufferings of the litigants and the lawyers who earlier had to physically travel to Jammu and Srinagar for appearing in their respective matters. This will save time besides being financially viable for both parties of the case.

"In future, hearing of the matters of Ladakh will be done virtually by allowing the parties to appear and plead their cases from the UT itself and it will be a regular feature", stated Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar Computers (IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

DAK Calls For Population-Based Cancer Screening In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On world cancer day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday called for population-based cancer screening in Kashmir valley.

"With cancer reaching epidemic proportions in the valley, screening people for cancer is the need of the hour," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said cancer screening detects disease early and reduces the risk of dying from the disease.

When a cancer is detected at an early stage, the chances of survival is dramatically higher than when detected at a later stage when the tumor has spread and the disease is more advanced.

"In a study survival rate for women diagnosed with cervical cancer at an advanced stage was just 15% compared to 93% when cancer was detected at an early stage," he said.

"Results from decades of research clearly shows that women whose breast cancer was detected early by screening mammography are less likely to need aggressive treatment, and are more like-

ly to be cured."

The DAK President said with no screening, most patients in Kashmir seek medical attention at later stages of cancer.

"And when they come in advanced stage, the treatment remains mostly ineffective and the chances of survival are less," he added.

Dr Nisar said people need to recognize that many cancers can be prevented by simple life-style measures.

"Avoiding smoking, exercise and a healthy diet will reduce the risk of cancer," he said.

As per the union health ministry figures, Jammu and Kashmir has reported an estimated 51,577 cancer cases in last four years (2018-2022).

While lung cancer was found prominent among men, breast cancer was the most common cancer among women.

More than 22, 000 people have died due to cancer during the period of 2018 to 2021.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said there is a dire need to set up a separate cancer hospital in Kashmir.

"That will strengthen cancer care in the population and improve patient outcome," he said.



LG & Sports Minister Launch 3rd National Winter Games Anthem, Mascot & Jersey

Observer News Service

JAMMU: LG Manoj Sinha and Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and I&B, Anurag Thakur launched 3rd Khelo India National Winter Games Anthem, Mascot and Jersey at Raj Bhavan on Saturday.

The launching ceremony marked the beginning of the biggest sporting extravaganza at Gulmarg starting from 10th February. More than 1500 sportspersons from 29 States/ UTs/ Boards will participate in 11 different winter sports disciplines.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister Sh Anurag Thakur congratulated the LG-led UT Government for promoting sports in J&K.

The participation of more than 1500 sportspersons in the Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg will encourage the

youth towards winter sports and also boost the tourism in Jammu Kashmir. The sportspersons joining the games from across the country will be the brand ambassador of the new Jammu Kashmir, he added.

LG Manoj Sinha, in his address, conveyed his best wishes to all the players, officials associated with the grand event.

J&K is all geared up to host the players, sports lovers and officials participating in the National Winter Games. This year's mascot the Snow Leopard depicts the vibrant heritage of the Himalayas. It also reiterates the administration's commitment towards their conservation, added the LG.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to Government, Tourism and Youth Services & Sports; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council and senior officials were present on the occasion.

J&K Wins 16 Medals In Sqay Championship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K has won 16 medals, including 1 gold, at a Sqay Martial Arts Championship organized by Sqay Association of Uttarakhand under the aegis of Sqay Martial Art Federation (India), from 1 to 3 February 2023, at Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

Below are the athletes who

have brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir:

Saadi Wani 2 Bronze, Aalim Shabir 3 Bronze, Mehraan Manzoor 2 Bronze, Humza Hilal 1 Bronze, Murabi Muzaffar 1 Bronze, Azhar Muneer 2 Bronze, Rifat Zahoor 1 Gold, 1 Bronze, Zubair Manzoor 1 Bronze, Huzaif Farooq 1 Bronze, Saqib Wani 1 Bronze

Arsenal Loses 1-0 At Everton For 2nd PL Defeat



Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Arsenal lost in the Premier League for just the second time this season as Everton pulled off a surprising 1-0 win over the leaders on Saturday in its first match under new manager Sean Dyche.

A couple of Dyche's former players at Burnley did the business for him at a lively Goodison Park.

James Tarkowski headed in an inswinging corner to the far post from Dwight McNeil for the winning goal in the 60th minute, capping a performance of intensity and desire from a team that started the match in next-to-last place.

While Everton climbed out of the relegation zone at least temporarily, Arsenal tasted defeat in the league for the first time since losing at Manchester United on Sept. 4.

Second-place Manchester City can trim the gap to Arsenal to two points with a win at Tottenham on Sunday, though Arsenal would still have a game in hand.

It will go down as one of Arsenal's worst performances of the season, at a time when Mikel Arteta's team was looking in prime shape to go on and win the league for the first time since 2004.

"This is not going to be a rose pathway," Arteta said. "This is going to be tricky and we will have to dig in and play much better than we did today."

Everton showed improved shape and organization under Dyche, characteristics he demanded of his well-drilled Burnley teams over the years and ones he sees as integral if his new club is to preserve its 69-year top-flight status.

Dyche said he had crammed a lot of instructions to his players into his first week on the job and wanted to get them to "understand the basics of the game."

"It's not that they weren't wearing the badge with pride, it just needed shining up a bit," Dyche said. "There was commitment but it maybe got a bit softened."

UAE Set To Host Asia Cup, ACC Decides



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Asian Cricket Council will decide on an alternate venue for the Asia Cup ODI tournament in March after BCCI secretary Jay Shah and PCB chairman Najam Sethi had their first formal meeting in Bahrain on Saturday. The Asia Cup was initially allotted to Pakistan and was scheduled in September this year but Shah, who is also the ACC chairman, had announced last October that India will not travel to Pakistan.

It is understood that United Arab Emirates with three venues -- Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah -- are favourites to host the tournament but the decision has been withheld for the time being.

All heads of ACC member nations attended the emergent meeting which was called at the behest of PCB chairman

Sethi after ACC under chairmanship of Shah released the continental body's itinerary where Pakistan wasn't named the hosts.

"The ACC affiliates met today and there were a lot of constructive discussions. But the shift of venue has been postponed till March. But be rest assured that with India not going to Pakistan, the tournament will have to be shifted. A tournament without Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharmas and Shubman Gillis will have the sponsors back out," a senior BCCI official privy to the development told PTI.

One ACC insider said Sethi has just taken over PCB and if he would have ceded ground on the hosting rights in the first meeting itself, then it would have led to a bad impression at home.

Pakistan is currently going

through an economic crisis and inflation has hit the country very hard with the country's currency (PKR) plummeting to Rs 277 against 1 US Dollar. Organising a high profile tournament like Asia Cup, even if ACC pays a grant could burn a hole in PCB coffers.

So strategically, if the tournament is held in the UAE, there is every possibility that all the member nations will also get to earn apart from the broadcast revenues.

In another decision, the ACC has decided to increase the annual budget allocated for Afghanistan Cricket Association to 15 percent from six.

The ACC has assured that it will help the Afghanistan board in all possible ways so that women's cricket can be revived in the country. Women are banned from playing sport under Taliban rule.



IND vs AUS: India Likely To Go For Sporting Tracks

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Fully aware of the current Indian batting line-up's issues of tackling spinners on rank turners, the team management will do well to ask for sporting tracks against Australia in the upcoming four-match Test series, one which offers turn from third day, feels former selectors and experts.

Once known as master players of spin, the Indian teams in recent years have looked more at home against express pace and steep bounce while struggling against slow bowling.

"Playing spinners on flat deck isn't the problem. We must admit that our batters have struggled against quality spin bowling on tracks that have offered turn. I don't know what kind of

tracks will be in the offing but rank turners could backfire," former Test spinner and noted commentator Murali Kartik told PTI during an interaction.

Kartik explained that even at the domestic level, there aren't too many players, who are actual masters against spinners.

Asked who among Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel should be the third spinner for India, Kartik said that it would all depend on the track.

"If it is flatter deck, then Kuldeep could be a good choice as he has the skills to take pitch out of equation. If it starts turning from second day onwards, Axar could come in. But if you ask me, invariably the third spinner will be under-bowled as you expect your two main guys to do the job," Kartik said.

Australia Can Win, India 'Vulnerable' At Home: Chappell

Press Trust of India

Batting great Greg Chappell believes Australia can win the upcoming high-profile four-match Test series as India are "vulnerable" this time with injuries to key players like Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah.

While the swashbuckling Pant is ruled out for most part of the year as he continues to recover from injuries sustained during a horrific car crash, Indian pace ace Bumrah does not figure in the Indian squad for the first two Tests because of a back injury.

"Australia can win this series. India are more vulnerable at home than they have been for some time due to injuries to key players like Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah. They will rely heavily on Virat Kohli," Chappell said in his column in Sydney Morning Herald.

Premier spin-bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who recovered from a knee injury and made a comeback in the Ranji Trophy last month, is in the Indian squad for the Test series beginning in Nagpur on Thursday.

Perth Scorchers Retain BBL Title



Agencies

PERTH: Perth Scorchers' 19-year-old Cooper Connolly smashed an unbeaten 25 to see his side over the line in a nail-biting five-wicket win against Brisbane Heat who retained their crown in the Big Bash League (BBL) season decider at Perth Stadium on Saturday.

The fifth-ranked Heat, who performed valiantly throughout the finals series, posted 175-7 from their 20 overs after opting to bat, but the reigning champions proved too strong and worked their way to 178-5 with four balls remaining. Perth Scorchers extended their BBL dominance to five titles from 12 editions.

With his team requiring 39 from 19 balls, Connolly, playing in only his fourth Twenty20, walked to the crease and assumed responsibility for the chase, living dangerously as he hammered two enormous sixes and a four. Defending 10 from the final over, Heat seamer Michael Neser conceded multiple boundaries to Nick Hobson (18 not out) who iced the match.

The Scorchers response began strongly until a lazy piece of running saw Stephen Eskinazi (21) short of his crease. The workmanlike Heat bowling attack hit good lengths through the first 10 overs, conceding 67-3 and pushing the required run rate above 10.

Captain Ashton Turner, responsible for several rescue acts this season, clubbed five boundaries and two sixes to keep the match on a knife-edge, supported by Josh Inglis (26). When Turner was run-out for 53, Connolly and Hobson's breath-taking partnership swung the match.

Earlier, opener Josh Brown got the Heat off to a rollicking start, belting 25 runs in the first two overs of the match before being caught. Sam Heazlett (34) and Nathan McSweeney (41) then consolidated to create a solid foundation for the innings. Aggressive use of the batting power-play in the 13th over backfired though and both Heazlett and skipper Jimmy Peirson (3) swiped Jason Behrendorff (2-26) to short fine leg.

After crunching a late 31 from 14 balls, Max Bryant skied a short Matt Kelly (2-37) delivery to keeper Inglis. The same fate awaited Neser, architect of Heat's semi-final chase against Sydney Sixers, one ball later as he went for a golden duck. Both sides entered the match short of star-power as injuries and international call-ups took their toll.

The Heat and Scorchers, aptly playing in temperatures nudging 40C (104F), were supported by a lively crowd of 53,886 -- a BBL final record.



CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar-190015 TELEFAX 0194-3500478-79 / 2441899

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Ref. No. CSK/64-WCD /2023/1875

Dated: 4th-Feb-2023

PRESS NOTE

On the eve of World Cancer Day (4th Feb 2023) **CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR** organized an awareness programme about all types of cancers at its office 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora, Srinagar & free Consultation for General people / Cancer Patients in **Day-Care** Centre of the Society. Patients registered with the Csk also attended for **OPD** consultation. The event was attended by Expert in the subject under the supervision of **Prof. (Dr.) N. A. Khan (Radiation/oncology Department of SKIMS)**. Sufficient number of patients who had come from different corners of the Valley were examined. Poor & deserving patients who are registered with this society were provided free anti cancer drugs as a matter of routine.

Besides consultation & examination an awareness lecture about this dreaded disease was delivered by **Prof. (Dr.) N. A. Khan (Radiation/oncology Department of SKIMS)**. The day long activities were carried out smoothly with active participation of staff members of the society under the Supervision of **Administration department of CSK** who worked very hard to make this event a success.



Issued in Public Interest by:-

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR.

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar.