

Sukhnandan for immediate assessment of crops damaged due to heavy rain & hailstorms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Unseasonal heavy rain & hailstorms have destroyed paddy & vegetables crops in many areas of Jammu division on Saturday morning", stated by former minister, ex MLA Marh & Chairman Panchyati Raj cell BJP JKUT Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar.

On behalf of the distressed farming community of the Jammu division, he appealed administration for immediate assessment of crops damaged due to severe hailstorms in various areas of Jammu Province in general and Jammu District in particular.



Chairman Panchyati Raj cell BJP JKUT Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar taking stock of damages caused to crops.

"Areas of Jammu district such as Marh, R.S. Pura, Raipur Domana, Akhnoor and many more area are badly affected by this unseasonal rain and hailstorms so accordingly help the farming community by sanctioning compensation in their favour", he asserted. Farmers of Jammu division were also facing shortage of DAP fertilizer due to which winter crops are late sowed and now are being destroyed by this natural calamity, he told.

"Crops are the only source of living for farmers and that has been destroyed today due to heavy rain and hailsteoms," he added.



Judge awarded 17-yr imprisonment & fine of Rs 70,000 in rape, cheat case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After convicting a judicial officer for rape and cheating of a woman who had sought legal help from him in 2018, Presiding Officer Fast Track Court, Khalil Choudhary awarded 17 years imprisonment to accused Rajesh Kumar Abrol on Saturday.

While awarding imprisonment, Presiding Officer Khalil Choudhary after hearing APP Suresh Sharma for the UT observed that it is not only the duty of the court, but social and legal obligation are clearly enjoined upon it to impose adequate punishment according to law while taking into consideration not only in the crime, but also the criminal. Furthermore, deterrence and reformation are primarily social goals. "It is the duty of the court to impose adequate sentence, for one of the purposes of the requisite sentence is protection of the society and legitimate response to its collectively concise. The paramount principle that should be the guiding laser beam is that the punishment should be proportionate. It is answer of the law to the social concise. In a way, it is an obligation to the society which has reposed confidence arid faith in the judicial system of the country to curtail the evil while

imposing the sentence. It is court's accountability to remind itself about its role and reverence for rule of law. It must evince rationalized judicial discretion and not an individual perception or a moral propensity. But, if in an ultimate eventuate the proper sentence is not awarded; the fundamental grammar of sentencing is guillotined. Law cannot tolerate it. Society does not withstand it and sanctity of concise abhors," the court observed.

With these observations, the Court directed accused to undergo simple imprisonment for seven years for commission of offence under Section 420 of RPC and a fine of Rs 20,000 (rupees twenty thousand) and rigorous imprisonment for ten years for commission of the offence under Section 376 (2) K RPC and a fine of Rs 50,000 (rupees fifty thousand) and in default of the payment of fines, the convict has to undergo further imprisonment for a period of three months in each offence. "The period of detention of the convict during investigation and trial of this case shall be set off against the sentence awarded to the convict. Both sentences shall run concurrently and copy of this order be provided to the convict free of cost at once," the Court directed.

Parent Deptt owns exclusive discretion to accept or reject request for absorption: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a petition filed by one Talvir Singh challenging order of his repatriation to his parent department dated July 13, 2021 and order No. 254/2021 dated July 14, 2021 directing him to report for further duties to Director General, BSF, New Delhi, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court held that it is exclusive discretion of parent department to accept or reject any request of absorption. The significant judgment was passed by Justice Sindhu Sharma.

In the petition, the applicant requested that he is aggrieved of these orders on the ground that the same are in violation of Articles 14 & 16 of the

Constitution of India. The petitioner also submitted that he has rendered outstanding service for more than 8 years with the respondent-CBI and has also cleared the Personal Assessment Test for his permanent absorption. He, accordingly, applied for extension of his deputation to concerned authorities, for which NoC was given by the parent department and a recommendation was also made in his favour. According to him, respondent-CBI has not adopted uniform criteria for absorption of all eligible persons in the organization. They have been absorbing similarly situated persons but denied the same benefits to the petitioner. He further submit-

ted that respondents all along have been regularizing overstay of the similarly situated persons by granting post-facto NoC also in their favour for permanent absorption but have arbitrarily refused the same to petitioner. It is also submitted that the petitioner continued working with CBI even after expiry of his tenure on August 24, 2018, therefore, had a legitimate expectation of his absorption in CBI.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, after hearing Adv Rajesh Bhushan for petitioner whereas ASGI Vishal Sharma for the Union of India, observed that a requisition made by borrowing Organisation/ Department or willingness

tendered by a person for absorption, will not automatically confer any right on an individual or borrowing department to claim absorption as a matter of right.

The discretion to accept or reject, a request for absorption, will be exclusively with parent CAPF or Cadre Controlling Authority, i.e., Ministry of Home Affairs as the case may be. In case of Subordinate Officers and Other Ranks, the proposals for absorption shall be decided by the Director General of the CAPF concerned in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs. The Court further said that the policy guidelines in paragraph 19 also provide that any personnel

aggrieved by rejection of permanent absorption in force can prefer a representation immediately to their parent cadre organization.

While dismissing petition, Justice Sindhu Sharma observed that from the perusal of policy guidelines, it is clear that discretion to accept or reject a request for cadre controlling authority will exclusively be with the parent department i.e., CAPF or Cadre Controlling Authority i.e., Ministry of Home Affairs. The Cadre Controlling Authority after considering all aspects conveyed its refusal of NoCs for 69 Constables and directed respondent to repatriate and relieve them.

Woman, son, nephew killed in road accident at Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three people, including two children, were killed and four others injured when a load carrier turned turtle in Reasi district on Saturday, officials said.

A private load carrier, carrying seven people from Srinagar to Arnas, overturned on reaching Chaklas around 7.30 am when its driver lost control of the vehicle, the officials said.

They said three people -- Banoo Bibi (42), her five-year-old son Murshid Ali and nephew Mohammad Imran (11) -- died on the spot.

Four others, including a 50-year-old woman and an eight-year-old boy, sustained injuries in the accident and have been shifted to a hospital, the officials said.

SMVDSB adopts project 'BHOG' under Eat Right initiative; Chairperson FSSAI visits SMVD Shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Chairperson Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Rita Teatia on Saturday stressed the need for implementation of Blissful Hygienic Offering to God (BHOG) project of FSSAI in and around the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. She said Places of Worship like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine be encouraged to adopt and maintain Food Safety and Hygiene while preparing Parsad/ Food.

Chairperson, FSSAI was here today at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine to review the Food Safety Parameter followed by the Shrine Board for the visiting pilgrims. The Chairperson while appreciating the efforts already in place

in the Shrine Board underscored that there is always a scope for improvement as the change is constant.

Implementation of BHOG would help to ensure that safe and wholesome parsad/ food is received by the devotees alongwith the blessing of Goddess. The Chairperson, FSSAI observed that the training of food handlers and stakeholders in and around the premises of the place of worship would be an integral part of the BHOG initiative. For this purpose she directed the concerned officers of Food & Drugs Administration, J&K UT to put in their best efforts for implementation of project BHOG in and around Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

The Chairperson, FSSAI

said that a necessary audit for gap assessment would be conducted in near future to design the different components for carrying out training programs in a phased manner. She assured all possible assistance from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India in delivering hygienic food to the visiting pilgrims.

Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) gave a detailed presentation about the various Catering facilities being provided by the Shrine Board for the pilgrims all along the track leading to the Holy Shrine, Katra and Jammu. He apprised that the main objective of the Catering Units run by the Shrine Board is to provide

wholesome and hygienic food at reasonable cost round the clock conforming to the guidelines of FSSAI. All the Catering outlets of Shrine Board are licensed under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and under its ambit regular inspections, Sampling, Prosecutions, Training and Awareness programs are being conducted on regular intervals, he added.

Others accompanied the Chairperson were Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K, Shakeel Ul Rehman; Head RCD, FSSAI, R.K Mittal; Dy. Commissioner, Food Safety, Sanjeev Kumar; Dy. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Dr. J. C. Mehra, and other officers of Food Safety and Shrine Board.

Targeted killings by terrorists in Kashmir show frustration of Pakistan: Bitta



AIATF Chief M S Bitta briefing media in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All India Anti-Terrorist Front (AIATF) chief M S Bitta on Saturday said the targeted killings by terrorists show Pakistan's growing frustration over the

peaceful atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

He said the time has come for political leaders in Kashmir to take a lesson from Punjab and lend whole-hearted support to the efforts of the government to wipe out Pakistan-sponsored terrorism from the Union Territory.

"After the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, nothing much happened in J&K proving wrong those who claim that the region will engulf in fire...Pakistan and its ISI got frustrated and a new plot was hatched to target innocent and unarmed civilians," Bitta told reporters here.

Eleven civilians, including two teachers, a pharmacy owner and five labourers, were killed in separate attacks by terrorists in

Kashmir Valley this month.

He said political leaders in Kashmir "need to take a lesson from Punjab and challenge the terrorists".

Bitta said the present government is not weak and has given a free hand to the security forces to deal with the terrorists.

He also hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

He urged the people of Kashmir to stand up against terrorism to make the future of their coming generations safe.

"Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and will remain so in future as well. Stand up against terrorism like we did in Punjab for the sake of humanity," he said.

Iconic Week Festival: Santoor Maestro Rahul Sharma enthralls audience in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The national level Santoor player Rahul Sharma on Saturday mesmerized music lovers with his blissful recital here at Teacher's Bhawan Gandhi Nagar, organised as part of Iconic Week Festival being held under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Member Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma was the chief guest of the



National level Santoor player Rahul Sharma performing during Iconic Week Festival.

event. The Iconic festival

has been organised to promote JKUT's cultural heritage, local talent and

tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, Jugal Kishore Sharma hailed the administration for hosting a series of events to promote Jammu region as an independent tourist destination. He said that the Union Government under the leadership of PM Modi was keen to promote and bring unexplored and potential destinations of Jammu and Kashmir on the world Tourism map.

He also lauded Rahul Sharma for the wonderful presentations and bringing fame to Jammu on National level.

Rahul Sharma is son of late Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma- all time Santoor Maestro hailing from Jammu.

Director, Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, and other officers and officials of Tourism and other concerned departments besides a large

number of audience witnessed the musical event and appreciated the performance.

The event was organised by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Divisional Administration Jammu under the slogan of 'serene evening of fusion Santoor' with Rahul Sharma. In the program Rahul Sharma presented several Santoor recitals based on different formations.

Pretending normalcy in Kashmir like walking on path of suicide: Panun Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the aftermath of the recent killings, a representative body of migrant Kashmiri pandits - Panun Kashmir -- on Saturday said pretending normalcy and belittling the gravity of the situation in the Valley will be like walking on the path of suicide .

It reiterated its demand for the creation of a homeland north and east of river Jhelum for permanent rehabilitation of all migrated Hindus and separation of Jammu for peace in the region.

Eleven persons, including two teachers, a prominent Kashmiri pandit pharmacy owner and five non-local labourers, were killed in a series of separate attacks by terrorists in the valley this month.

Government of India should understand the situation in Jammu and Kashmir without the blinkers of appeasement and wishful thinking. What has been happening in Jammu and Kashmir is not a law and order problem. It is not merely

a problem of terrorism, Panun Kashmir chairman Ajay Chrungoo told reporters here.

He claimed that whatever is happening is a clear expression of a 'jihad' (holy war) .

Pretending normalcy and belittling the gravity of situation has already cost the nation immensely and continuing to do so will be like walking on the path of suicide, he said.

Referring to thousands of Kashmiri migrant pandits who got jobs under an employment package in the valley, Chrungoo said, They are like caged pigeons and threatened at all times.

Government policy with regard to them is a policy of making them hostages to a Muslim fascist communal order.

They are the frontline victims of a denial of genocide policy besides the direct targets of jihadi war, he said, disapproving a link between the employment package and the return and rehabilitation of the migrant

pandits in the valley.

For defeating the jihadi war in Jammu and Kashmir and for reversing Hindu genocide further, Chrungoo said the reorganisation of J-K is a critical necessity .

Takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban has created an imperative necessity and urgency to divide Kashmir. Creation of a Panun Kashmir north and east of river Jhelum for permanent rehabilitation of all Hindus expelled from Kashmir and separation of Jammu are critical requirements for peace in the region, he said.

He also demanded declaration of Pakistan a terrorist state .

Jihad has become like an agricultural enterprise in Jammu and Kashmir and terror crops are being grown from inside as well. Destroying terror agriculture should be the foremost priority of government of India rather than merely killing terrorists which is like cutting the leaves and leaving the poisonous plant intact, he said.

Kitchen Gardens: New hope for unemployed educated youth

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: COVID-19 and imposed lockdowns have taught us many tough and good lessons in the life. It taught us how to spend precious time with elders, children at home and how to replace lawns and flower pots into kitchen gardens to get fresh and chemical & pesticides-free vegetables. The trend of Kitchen Garden in Kashmir is at new heights, as a number of young boys and girls are very much interested in it while

Agriculture Department of Kashmir is also taking many steps to promote the trend in Kashmir; for making people of Valley self-sufficient in vegetable sector.

Earlier in March and April this year, when COVID-19 was on its peak,

the inhabitants of Srinagar city replaced flower-beds with Kitchen Gardens to grow vegetables like Pumpkins, Brinjal, Tomatoes, Spinach and Collard Greens, as an effort to overcome shortage of essentials amid imposed lockdown. Since vegetables are an essential part of daily-diet, every individual is concerned about its supplies, freshness and quality. In Kitchen gardening, vegetables can be grown in houses to meet, either in full or in parts, family requirements seasonally or throughout the year.

Agriculture Department is also keen to promote kitchen garden culture, with the department organising seedling distribution camps quite often for Kitchen garden lovers.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal has directed the department to organise more and more camps for distribution of vegetable seedlings at Kitchen Garden Centre, Lal Mandi Srinagar.

During a seedling distribution camp, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal, while interacting with vegetable growers and kitchen garden lovers, said that the Department is committed to provide quality seedlings to vegetable growers so that they could use available resources properly and contribute to overall vegetable production. He further said that kitchen gardening is becoming a healthy trend in urban agriculture and people are

adopting it nowadays with open-arms. "Department is implementing a plan where seedlings of different vegetable crops will be made available to the farmers round the year and this initiative has been started in all the districts of Kashmir Division," he informed.

Expressing satisfaction over the new healthy trend, various Agriculture Experts have said that kitchen gardening is a multi-dimensional venture wherein on one hand vegetables grown in kitchen gardens are mostly organic as people do not use chemical fertilizers at homes while on the other hand it can promote agriculture among younger generations and students as a good source of livelihood, especially for unemployed educated youth.