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Govt cracks whip...

He allegedly made huge procurement without following tender process. A joint surprise check by ACB had revealed his malpractices.

"The officer is also involved in cases related to embezzlement/ misappropriation which inter-alia casts doubt on the functioning of the officer and his abilities with regard to dealing of financial responsibilities," sources further added.

Another Officer dismissed on charges of corruption and misconduct is Mohammad Qasim Wani, JKAS, Regional Director, Survey and Land Records, Srinagar. Sources said Wani as District Programme Officer, ICDS, Kupwara had procured substandard material on highly exorbitant rates for ICDS project. An FIR under prevention of corruption act was filed against Wani. Sanction for prosecution was accorded by the government in 2020 and a charge sheet has been filed against him by ACB before the trial court.

"Wani had purchased huge properties in the name of his wife. He has made fortune misusing official position, clearly indicating his doubtful integrity," Sources confirmed.

Noor Alam, Deputy Secretary, ARI Training Department has also been dismissed after scrutiny of corruption cases of the tainted employee. During his posting in different departments, Alam, amassed huge wealth, misusing his official position. ACB had registered a case against Alam in 2019 to investigate his illegal assets and subsequently attached 4 of his properties- A house in Jammu, A plot measuring 10 marlas in Jammu, A plot of land measuring 3 kanals in Jammu and another plot measuring 10 marlas in Jammu.

" Apart from these assets, he had raised various other properties in the name of his wife and other family members and also owns several vehicles including commercial vehicles."

An employee, Mohd Mujib Ur Rehman Ghassi, JKAS, who has been dismissed is currently under suspension. Ghassi during his tenure in Cooperative department had facilitated a loan amount of Rs. 223 Crore in favor of a non-existent Cooperative society. Sources said the government has also expedited the identification of officials facing corruption charges and wrongdoings.

DM Jammu notifies...

the District administration within Jammu Municipal Limits and by the respective SDMs/Tehsildar for the areas outside Jammu Municipality in Jammu District.

Stalls for sale of fireworks, crackers etc shall be put by concerned dealers only at places mentioned in their permissions after getting clearance from the Deputy Director Fire Services, the police, Municipality and Revenue authorities.

The maximum amount of explosives which may be kept at any particular time in license premises shall not exceed the quantity given in class 7 Div. 2, Sub Div. 11, of the explosive rules SCIV.

Electrical fittings in the premises shall be affixed properly. Also one CFL tube shall be installed in the close vicinity of the stock of the explosive. No loose electrical fitting shall be there.

No person under 18 years of age or who is in the state of intoxication or of unsound mind shall be employed for loading/ unloading or transportation of explosives or be allowed to enter in the licensed premises.

No Explosives which are not authorized under rules or prohibited under Section 6(A) of Act shall be possessed or sold from the premises.

Chocolate Bomb, Chain Cracker, (Kali Pataka, Loose Cracker) Dhani Pataka, Dodoma, Seven Shots, Rocket Bomb, Garland Patakas, Stat Bomb etc, shall not be sold by the wholesale cracker dealer/retail cracker dealer to restrict the noise level.

Imported fireworks containing sensitive chemical substances which are not permitted under Indian statute and also do not comply with the Indian Noise Level Standards shall not be sold by wholesale cracker dealer/ retailer.

No retail sale of crackers or other fireworks shall be undertaken by any authorized person at his shop/ premises before or after the Diwali festival.

The crackers and other explosive material shall contain a price tag which shall not be more than the price printed on each explosive. The price printed shall be deemed to include all local taxes even if the printed specifically reads "Local Tax Extra".

In case any wholesale or retailer contravenes any of the conditions specified above, not only the permission granted in his favour shall be cancelled and his stock seized but shall be liable for prosecution under relevant provisions of law.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for till November 30, 2021. Sufficient notice of the order shall be given by making an announcement through Radio Kashmir, Jammu and the press and by the office of the District Magistrate, Senior Superintendent of Police, Municipality, Jammu, Sub Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars etc.

Any person, who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provision of Section-188 of the IPC.

Meanwhile, Jammu administration notified ten location for selling for crackers which include JDA Parking back side Fortune Hotel; JDA Parking Opp. Vishal Mega Mart Bahu Plaza; JDA Land near Sabzi Mandi, Muthi (Near Director School Education); JDA Ground back side Main Market Trikuta Nagar; below Sainik Colony Dussehra Ground; JDA Land near Narwal; JDA Park Roop Nagar; Kunjwani Talab near Peer Baba; Bagh-e-Bahu; and Qasim Nagar (Near Radisson Blu Hotel).

11 dead, 14...

Hospital GMC Doda Dr Yudhvir Singh said that as of now we have received total 25 persons here, out of which 10 were brought dead, later one injured also succumbed to his injuries taking death toll to 11.

The deceased have been identified as Ghulam Hussain Shah (60) son of Maqbool Shah, his son Shabbir Ahmed (30) resident of Bharote Mohala, Rhitik Sharma (19) son of Lekh Raj resident of Jhateli, Jammal Din (23) son of Lal Din, resident of Bakhana Mohala; Mohd Latief (65) son of Mohd Ramzan, resident of Bharoa Bhaderwah, Amari Devi (55) wife of Swami Raj, resident of Sisoli Bharshalla, Bhadur Singh (65), son of Hari Singh, resident of Shirdhani Bhella, besides two unidentified bodies which according to Superintendent GMC Doda Dr Yudhbir Kotwal were brought dead while Santosh Kumar (22) son of Somnath and Rajesh Kumar (24) son of Bhodi Singh resident of Parnote of Mohala died in hospital.

Those who are undergoing treatment at GMC Doda include Sanjay Kumar (18), Naveen Akhtar (45), Rohit Sharma (21), Neetu Devi (17), Vikram Singh (22), Ashok Sharma (22), Santosh Kumar (22) Arif Hussain (21) and Savita Devi (45).

Meanwhile seven seriously injured, airlifted to GMC Jammu, included Rajesh Kumar (24) Ramesh Kumar (27), Monika Devi (24), Santhoshi Devi (22), Babur Hussain (25), Pervaiz Ahmed (32) and Ponam Devi (22).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has condoled deaths in the road accident. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives, the injured would be given Rs 50,000, PMO said.

"Saddened by the road accident near Thatri, Doda in Jammu and Kashmir. In this hour of grief, I convey my condolences to the bereaved families. I pray that the people who have been injured recover at the earliest," a tweet from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Union Minister Dr Jatinder Singh, Ex MLA Bhadarwah, Ex MLC Naresh Kumar Gupta, Congress leader Randeep Bhandari also paid condolences to the families of those killed in the road accident.

A tweet from Office of LG J&K reads as "Deeply anguished to hear about the tragic road accident in J&K's Doda. My thoughts & prayers for the families who have lost their loved ones. Have directed the Dist Admin to provide immediate relief to families of deceased & best medical assistance to the injured."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha after a road accident in Doda district left nine people dead.

Shah condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

"Saddened by the road accident in J&K's Doda. I express my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the accident. I have spoken to Lt Governor @manojsinha_ji. The administration is providing all possible help and treatment to the injured. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Shah tweeted in Hindi.

DDC Vice-Chairperson Doda Sangeeta Bhagat has expressed deep shock over the unfortunate accident at Sui Gowari Doda. She expressed her heartfelt condolences with deceased families and prayed speedy recovery of injured persons.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer also visited Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH), Doda to enquire about the condition of persons injured in Doda road accident.

On the directions of Lieutenant Governor, the Divisional Commissioner rushed to district Doda to know about the condition of the accident victims admitted in the Medical College Hospital Doda.

"Total 8 injured have been admitted in GMCH Doda and all are stable, while 7 critical injured were shifted to GMCH Jammu for specialised treatment" the concerned medical superintendent informed Divisional Commissioner.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the hospital administration to provide the best treatment to the injured for their early recovery.

The Divisional Commissioner also ordered magisterial enquiry into the cause of the tragic accident. Additional District Magistrate Doda, Dr RK Bharti has been asked to conduct enquiry and submit the enquiry report & findings within one week.

Expressing grief over the loss of precious lives in the road mishap, the Div Com asked the district administration to take concrete measures to prevent such mishaps.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vikas Sharma; ADC Doda, RK Bharti; Chief Medical Officer, Yaqoob Mir and other health officers.

LG visits injured...

Rs 3 Lakh compensation for the NoKs of every deceased, Rs 2 Lakh from LG's discretionary fund and Rs 1 Lakh from Road victim fund as immediate relief.

The Lt Governor also held discussion with Principal GMC Jammu, Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma among other senior officers.

Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of J&K Ghulam Nabi Azad has expressed his heartfelt grief on the loss of life in the tragic road accident. He has demanded that adequate compensation for the family members of those deceased and proper medical attention to those who are injured.



LG Manoj Sinha during visit to GMC Jammu to enquire the condition of accident victims.

"Time and again I am impelled to talk about the traffic mismanagement on this particular road. It has claimed many precious lives. I am sure the UT authorities will press all available resources into action and take immediate remedial measures. My heart goes out for those who lost their loved ones. Injured should be given immediate medical attention" said Azad.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan also expressed grief and shock over the tragic deaths.

In his condolence message, Advisor Khan conveyed his deep condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of the injured passengers.

Advisor assured all possible assistance to the injured and bereaved families by the district and divisional administration.

Former MLA and BJP leader Devender Singh Rana has also expressed grief over the deaths, describing the accident as most tragic and unfortunate.

"My heart goes out to the families who have lost their dear ones in the tragedy", Rana said in a statement and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families.

Rana prayed for peace to the departed souls and strength to their families to bear this irreparable loss. He also wished speedy recovery to those injured in the accident.

J&K BJP leaders expressed deep grief over the loss of precious lives in a road accident near Doda.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina said that the tragic accident was heart-breaking, where many precious lives were lost in the painful accident on Doda-Thathri road and many people were injured in the accident.

He said that we pray to God for peace to the souls of all those who lost their lives in this accident and at the same time, speedy recovery of all the injured.

He said that LG administration has done commendable job in the relief operation after the accident. He also said that BJP will look after that every possible effort is taken to provide every type of relief to the bereaved families and the best medical aid to the injured.

J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul, who is in Kashmir, expressed deep shock and grief over the death of valuable lives in tragic Thathri-Doda accident.

He offered heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of persons who lost their lives and prayers for speedy recovery of those injured. He further appealed to the administration to provide preeminent relief to the affected and said that the special efforts be ensured to provide best possible health facilities to the injured.

JKPCC Vice President and former Cabinet Minister Raman Bhalla also expressed shock over the deaths.

Condoling the loss of lives in road accident in he demanded district administration to provide immediate relief to families of deceased and best medical assistance to the injured. My thoughts and prayers for the families who have lost their loved ones, in this hour of grief, I convey my condolences to the bereaved families. I pray that the people who have been injured recover at the earliest, said Bhalla. In the wake of the tragic road accident, the authorities should tighten the noose around the violators of traffic rules to avoid the recurrence of such mishaps. There is need to work out modalities for streamlining traffic, besides strict implementation of traffic rules to curb accidents should be priority of govt. There is need to conduct a test for driving skills of drivers of all modes of transport who plied vehicles on various roads of the district with special focus on accident prone areas due to its topography. Besides checking overloading of passenger vehicles, documents, including fitness certificates and driving licences, both traffic and transport authorities should ensure proper coordination for strict implementation of traffic rules so that the incidence of road accidents was minimized, added Bhalla.

AC strengthens Audit...

Audit Analysis Monitoring and Follow up Cells (AMFC) at UT and Divisional level. By another decision, the Administrative Council approved the transfer of state land measuring 02 kanal at Udhampur in favour of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India to build the sub-regional office building of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The land will be transferred on payment of Rs. 13,20,000.

Currently, the Field Operation Division (FOD) of National Sample Survey Office has its regional offices in Jammu & Srinagar with their sub-regional offices in Udhampur, Anantnag & Baramulla districts which are housed in rental buildings.

Opening up of regional and sub-regional offices with adequate infrastructure will go a long way in strengthening people's participation in policy formulation and execution. It also approved the proposal of Revenue Department to transfer various parcels of land for public purposes.

CBI charge-sheets...

Trust through its chairperson and Singh's wife Kanta Andotra, former Deputy Commissioner of Kathua Ajay Singh Jamwal and former Tehsildar of Marheen Avatar Singh.

Besides, the then Naib Tehsildar Chann Rorian (Marheen Tehsil) Des Raj, the then Girdawar Ram Pal, the then Patwari Sudesh Kumar and other unknown persons.

The Central Bureau of Investigation had initially in June 2020 registered a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) on the allegations of encroachment on a huge tract of public/government/forest land in Kathua by certain persons in violation of J&K Agrarian Reforms Act in connivance with revenue and forest officials, the statement said.

It was further alleged that the accused were involved in the conspiracy with the Educational Trust through its chairperson to allow the trust to retain the land beyond the permissible ceiling limit of 100 standard kanal fixed in the Agrarian Reforms Act by deliberately giving the wrong exemption of 32 kanals of grazing land as per aforesaid Act and showing the land as 'orchard' which was not an orchard as per revenue record.

It was also alleged that the educational trust, in connivance with the other accused, got done wrong calculation of standard kanal of the land measuring 316 kanal and 17 Marlas to escape the ceiling imposed by the J&K Agrarian Reforms Act.

It was also further alleged that a false information was submitted in the affidavit filed by one of the accused during June, 2015 before the court in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) so as to save the Trust from any adverse order, the CBI said.

The trust runs a school, B.Ed. (Bachelor of Education) and nursing colleges on the land, officials said, adding its transactions are being probed by the central agency for alleged irregularities in its purchase.

During investigation it was found that the then Chairperson of said Educational Trust allegedly entered into conspiracy with Ravinder Singh, the then Patwari, Patwar Halqa Muthi Hardo, Tehsil Hiranagar (now Marheen), district Kathua. It was also alleged that in pursuance to the conspiracy, fards were issued by said Patwari, without mentioning the details in respect of ceiling imposed under J&K Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 and mutations were attested, thus facilitating illegal acquisition of lands beyond ceiling limit by the said Educational Trust, in gross violation of the J&K Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976.

Today, Jammu and Kashmir is at the fifth place in terms of farm income across the country. The multifold increase in the income of the farmers of the UT is the result of the government's commitment to work for the betterment of the farming community, said the Lt Governor.

Jammu and Kashmir has been declared as 'Agri Export Zone' for Apple and Walnut for now, and other products will also be included in the coming days. It is the determination of the UT administration that no section of the society should remain away from the mainstream of development, said the Lt Governor.

We have started Integrated Dairy Development Scheme, Poultry Development Scheme and Integrated Sheep Development Scheme. In just 15 months, we have been able to start 1569 new dairy units, and in the next two years, we will become surplus UT instead of deficit in these sectors, the Lt Governor added.

The agriculture minister highlighted that the central government was working with full force for the development of agriculture and allied sectors in the country and to increase the income of farmers.

Tomar appreciated the Jammu and Kashmir government for doing speedy work for the development of agriculture in the Union Territory with help of funds provided under various central schemes.

The festival will provide a better platform to apple growers and other stakeholders, he said.

The apple festival under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' will prove to be a milestone in increasing the income of the farmers.

With an annual production of more than 2.2 million tonnes, apples from Jammu and Kashmir account for 87 per cent of the national production and are linked to the livelihood

of about 30 per cent of the population of the UT, according to the statement.

Tomar also expressed satisfaction over high-density plantation being done in 2,300 hectare area under a special scheme in the UT.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Choudhary said the agriculture budget of the Centre has increased to Rs 1.23 lakh crore from Rs 22,000 crore before the Modi government came to power.

Speaking on the occasion, Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, highlighted various initiatives being taken by the department to give unprecedented push to the growth of Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied sectors.

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director General Horticulture Kashmir presented the vote of thanks.

The Lt Governor felicitated progressive framers and handed over sanctioned subsidy letters to the beneficiaries. He also inspected around 45 stalls of apple and other horticulture produce & machinery installed by government departments and private players.

Informative booklets on Modified High Density Plantation Scheme and development of High Density Nurseries and Orchards, a leap towards progress and self-reliance in the Horticulture Department were also released on the occasion.

Prof JP Sharma, VC SKUAST-Kashmir; Dr Hina Shafiq Bhatt, VC KVIB; Members of PHD Chamber of Commerce Kashmir; PARC, Cold Storage, J&K Fruits & Vegetable processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association, various Farmers and Growers Associations, besides large number of farmers were present on the occasion.

Local public representatives, apple growers, farmers, entrepreneurs, agricultural scientists and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.