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School education going...

Individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully, the Lt Governor added.

The current generation is fortunate to have the National Education Policy-2020. It is the responsibility of us all to implement it in letter and spirit, the Lt Governor said to the officers of Education Department and the District Administrations.

I believe that education is the medium of mental and spiritual development for any student. Throughout life, we keep learning something or the other and if seen in this direction, examination is just a stage, not the destination, he added.

The children should also learn about the towering personalities who have contributed in building and nurturing the country," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also stressed on promotion of vernacular languages in schools.

Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department; Dr Ravi Shanker Sharma, Director School Education Jammu; Tasaduq Mir, Director School Education Kashmir; Er. Deep Raj Kanethia, Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, officers of District administration and school education department were present in person and through virtual mode.

2 LeT operatives...

filed before the court of third additional sessions judge, Jammu, he said.

Qasim, originally a resident of Angrala village of Mahore in Reasi district, is absconding and his name cropped up during investigation of the case, exposing the terror network in Jammu and Kashmir and PoK.

Three-year-old Veer Singh was killed and six of his family members, including a woman, injured in a grenade attack by terrorists on the house of a BJP functionary at Khandli Chowk in Rajouri on August 13, 2021.

The accused were charged under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, Explosive Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the official said.

Shah and his Kashmiri associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama were overpowered by the villagers of remote Tuksun Dhok in Reasi district in July last year and later handed over to police.

Two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

On December 30, Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency had filed a chargesheet against Shah, Qasim and two other LeT operatives in another case related to smuggling of arms and explosives by drones and recruitment of youth in the prescribed outfit to revive the terror ecosystem in different districts of Jammu region.

Ten JKAS officers...

as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ganderbal; Muzaffer Ahmad Sheikh, JKAS, BDO, Devasar; as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Bandipore; Shabir Ahmad Hakak, JKAS, Sub-Registrar, Budgam, as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Baramulla. Muzamil Maqbool Beigh, Collector Land Acquisition Special Army (Budgam & Srinagar) will look after the routine work of Sub-Registrar, Budgam in addition to his own duties.

Sheraz Ahmad, JKAS, Project Manager IWMP, Rajouri has been transferred and posted as Commissioner Panchayat, Rajouri. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Project Manager, IWMP, Rajouri, till further orders.

Manzoor Ahmad Mir; JKAS, Deputy Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Shopian; and Sunil Kumar, JKAS, Project Manager, IWMP, Samba, as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Samba. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Project Manager, IWMP, Samba, till further orders.

As per another order; Sanjay Kumar Badaly, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner (North), Jammu Municipal Corporation; Manisha, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue in the Jammu Municipal Corporation as Assistant Commissioner (General), Jammu; Natyapal Singh, Assistant Information Officer in the office of Joint Director, Information, Jammu, as Public Relation Officer, Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Political parties slam...

out peaceful marches in various parts of the Union territory.

Coming down heavily on the administration, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said laws are made to "disempower", "humiliate" and "punish" people in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a circular issued on January 9, Commissioner Secretary of the Revenue Department, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure 100 per cent removal of encroachments from state land, including Roshni and Kahcharai, by the end of January.

"Who stops us from going after the rich powerful elite. The elites till now are getting away with mere threats. The humbler structures of the poor are abodes borne out of necessities. These structures house families, aspirations, dreams, ambitions, emotions, memories," Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone said in a tweet.

Mufti claimed the government was keeping people in Jammu and Kashmir busy with issues of their survival so that they cannot fight the onslaught on their identity.

"Laws are created for the welfare of public, but in J&K they are weaponised to disempower, humiliate & punish. This latest diktat was issued because despite GOI misusing all the agencies at its disposal & unleashing draconian laws, aren't getting the desired results," she said in a series of tweets.

"The collective punishment and humiliation is this government's way of keeping people of J&K on tenterhooks & fighting for mere survival so that they don't have the energy to fight the onslaught against their identity," she added.

Activists of the Democratic Azad Party (DAP), Congress and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) held separate protests here on the issue.

Hundreds of leaders and workers of DAP led by its vice chairman G M Saroori took out a peaceful march from Panama Chowk to the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu against the "process of evicting people from the lands which have been under their possession for generations".

They also submitted a memorandum to the Divisional Commissioner, seeking immediate revocation of the order.

"The land under Roshni act was allotted to people through the legislature of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state. It is unfortunate now that those who were benefitted from the scheme are forced to vacate the land, despite the matter is sub-judge before the High Court & Supreme Court. He further said that the government cannot force the eviction of the people who have legally obtained the ownership of land. Where shall they go in these harsh winters," Saroori said.

Saroori said that when Ghulam Nabi Azad was the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir he allotted the land to landless and homeless to empower them economically but the present dispensation seems hell bent to disempower people after snatching their resources.

Provincial President Jugal Kishore said "DAP stands with the people who are being victimized with this executive order. We will not accept it. Only the elected governments can decide the fate of people."

He said the agenda of DAP is to empower the local people and we will continue our fight to seek the restoration of statehood, secure jobs and land rights. "We are not going to watch the sufferings of our people silently. We will raise the voice for them," he added.

DAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad had recently termed the order as "unfortunate" and said he had provided land under the Roshni scheme as chief minister to the poor, needy and landless for building houses and cultivation, but now the prevailing regime is snatching it back, that too, in harsh weather conditions.

He had said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were the first beneficiaries of its resources.

Among others who participated in the protest were Ex Minister Choudhary Ghulam Ram, Gen Secretary Vinod Mishra, Ex MLC Naresh Gupta, Ex Adv General & WC member Aslam Goni, Vishal Chopra, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, PR Manhas Zonal President, Maheshwar Singh, Hira Lal Abrol, Arun Singh Raju, Prabha Salathia, Brij Mohan Sharma, Ashwani Khajuria, Gourav Chopra, Sobat Ali, Mehboob Azad, Farooq Shikari, Gurmeet Kaur, Ashwani Handa, Santosh Magotra, Ashok Bhagat, Sunita Arora, Rajini Sharma, Priti Khajuria, Priti Kotwal, Anoop Khajuria, Ashutosh Raina, Pinky Manhas, Nirmal Singh Mehta, Alyas Wani, Asghar Rasool, Nabeel Khalid, Shakeel Singh Bhagat, O.P. Bhagat, Jai Ram Bhagat, Shabir Khan, Fatima Shikari, Sheik Shabir; Ramesh Parikh, Gurdar Lal Bhav and others.

Dozens of Congress workers led by senior leader Shahnaaz Choudhary staged a similar protest outside the Press Club against the government order.

"The LG administration is working against downtrodden and marginalized people of Jammu and Kashmir, which is intolerable. We demand roll back of this unjust land notification. It seems that BJP controlled administration is planning escape route for big sharks involved in land mafia business by uprooting poor and landless people," Shahnaaz

said while addressing media after protest.

He further said that LG administration should frame fair and rational policy to save small and marginal farmers, poor people from getting uprooted after this irrational and illegal land notification.

Congress party will start strong agitation if BJP controlled apparatus will not withdraw this unjust and irrational land notification.

Congress leader Jatinder Chib, IYC Secretary Ajaz Choudhary, JKPCC Social Media Chairperson Bilal Rashid, Happy Randhawa, Ajay Lakhota and other senior leaders were also present.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to Occupants) Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to occupants of state land.

The Act, popularly known as Roshni scheme, initially envisaged conferment of proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh Kanals (1,02,750 hectares) to the occupants of which only 15.85 per cent land was approved for vesting of ownership rights. The scheme was finally repealed by the then governor Satya Pal Malik on November 28, 2018.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court had on October 9, 2020 declared the Act "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable", and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of land under this law.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami also voiced his deep concern over the government's move of divesting people of the land registered under various titles in revenue records and demanded immediate withdrawal of the order.

Calling the move "administration-sponsored land grab", he appealed to all shades of public opinion to unitedly raise the voice against such steps of the administration.

Gandhi Nagar robbery

Sharma and Advocate Sahib Aggarwal (complainant), present in person, observed that as robbed money is yet to be recovered and many other accused persons involved in robbery are yet to be nabbed by the SIT, mere factum of accused being in judicial custody can't entitle him to seek bail especially when accused is involved in such a serious crime. "Indisputably, the applicant, at present, is in judicial lockup but it doesn't mean that the investigation of the case is complete.

Prima facia, it appears that in case the accused is enlarged on bail, there is every apprehension that he may temper with evidence and may also come in contact with absconding accused persons and may then hamper the investigation of the case. Moreover, while deciding the plea of the accused for bail, the antecedents of the accused can't be ignored. Police report has shown that instant case is not the only case registered against accused but, as per the record submitted by SIT, accused Raja Singh, son of Sardar Gurdev Singh, resident of Hoshiarpur; at present Patiala City, is also involved in three more FIRs registered in Dasua, Hoshiarpur (Punjab), which clearly indicate that accused Raja Singh is not a first-time offender," the Court observed. "In view of facts and circumstances, the Court is of the considered view that a strong prima facia has been made out against applicant/accused. Offences allegedly to have been committed by the accused are very serious in nature and are considered an menace and threat to the society. Personal liberty of the accused is without any doubt his constitutional guarantee but the same can be refused in accordance with the procedure established by law and is required to be balanced with the impact of the offence upon the society. Therefore, prayer of the applicant for grant of bail is rejected and application is hereby dismissed. It is made clear that any observation made hereinabove are strictly for the disposal of the instant application only and shall not be construed as an expression of opinion while deciding the main case as and when filed," the Court directed.

As per the details of the case, Police report revealed that on 07.12.2022 at 7 am, ten armed persons, wearing upper jersey and caps of JK Police, entered house of complainant and held him as well as his wife, parents, 2 domestic helps and driver as hostages on gun point and left house at 12:30 PM after settling extortion money @ Rs 12 to 15 lakh. During investigation of the case, five accused persons, including applicant, were arrested. At the time, when the police was effecting the arrest of the mastermind of the case namely Harpreet Singh, fired on police party. On disclosure of accused Harpreet Singh, 4 pistols, 6 magazines, 57 live rounds, 3 handcuffs, Rs 4,25,000 cash, 6 upper jersey with logo of JK Police, 10 police caps with logo of JK Police, 2 face-masks, 1 notebook, 8 tapes, one pair hand gloves, one black coloured trouser and a pair of black formal shoes were recovered. The SIT found that the main conspirator namely accused Harpreet Singh had planned six different incidents of dacoity, kidnapping and target killing and for accomplishing the plans, had contacted applicant as well as other gangsters of Punjab. For successful execution of Dacoity, the applicant had visited Jammu on two different occasions with mastermind Harpreet and also received Rs 14,000 in this regard. The applicant was also in touch with the other accused Manjeet Singh, who was directly reporting to accused Harpreet Singh. Plan for executing instant robbery was hatched at the residence of accused Harpreet in Jammu and it was decided that each of associates including applicant would receive Rs 5 lakh after robbery. Thereafter, the applicant returned back to Punjab but refused to come back to Jammu for executing robbery as he had some family issues but agreed to provide safe hideouts for absconding accused persons. Through its supplementary report, the SIT has submitted that as per CDR details, more than 100 phone calls have been exchanged between the applicant and accused Manjeet Singh @ Faaji while frequency of these calls increased manifold between 05.11.2022 to 15.11.2022, during the period when applicant visited Jammu to conduct reeve and finalize robbery plan. It suggests the nature and gravity of circumstances in which the offences have been committed. Offence punishable under section 395 of IPC is punishable with imprisonment for life or rigorous imprisonment for 10 years and fine, and offence is triable by Court of Sessions, thus is very serious in nature.

Pertinently, the occurrence involved in this case is first of its kind and has never been heard in past in Jammu. It has taken place in the heart of the city that too in broad daylight. Moreover, complainant is a practicing Advocate and area where the dacoity has been executed is nearby a high-security zone and considered as one of the safest areas of Jammu. Few of the members of this gang hail from Punjab and are still evading their arrests. As recoveries in the instant case have been affected from Jammu as well as from Punjab and thus it appears to be an inter-state gang, which uses weapons and have criminal background. The involvement of this gang is possible in other high profile murder cases also. The CDR reports, tower locations of the applicant and disclosure of other accused persons especially accused Manjeet @ Faaji, detailing the involvement of the applicant in the crime in minute details, prima facia establishes a case against applicant. Therefore, the arguments of the Counsel for the applicant that the exchange of almost 100 calls, that too prior to the commission of the crime, between applicant and accused Manjeet @ Faaji against whom almost 20 criminal cases have been registered, is no evidence against applicant, are not sustainable. It was also disclosed by police that applicant is one of the main conspirators and has played his role prior to the actual occurrence as well as in conducting reeve the house and had also ensured safe hideouts for accused who executed the main robbery.

Ensure party doesn't,,

then in Telangana in 2023.

The ruling party has been putting in place a number of exercises to strengthen its organisation to ensure that it comes back to power in 2024 at the Centre for a third term. In his nearly 45-minute closed-door address, Nadda highlighted the representation to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the BJP governments in states and the Centre, besides in constitutional positions like governor. He noted that in President Droupadi Murmu, India has got its first tribal person at the top constitutional post.

"The party is getting votes of the backward classes, SCs and STs and is giving them representation. This shows our resolve of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Prayas," he said, stressing on the expanding voter base of the party in the last several years since Modi led it to victory in 2014 and then in 2019.

Nadda lauded India's progress under the Modi government.

It has become the world's fifth-largest economy, second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones, third-largest manufacturer in the auto sector while the length of highway being built every day has risen to 37 km from 12 km earlier; the party president said. The country has also worked to empower the poor with a number of welfare schemes, including distribution of free grains, he added.

Nadda praised the party's win in the recent Gujarat assembly polls as "extraordinary and historic", saying winning more than 150 seats in the 182-member assembly is a great achievement.

While the party lost in Himachal Pradesh to the Congress, the vote gap between the two parties was less than one per cent, he said.

He called upon state units and other leaders to emulate the Gujarat state unit and Modi's untiring efforts to strengthen the organisation.

He said India has made rapid strides to fulfil the 'panch pran' (five pledges), including freedom from every trace of slavery and feeling proud of the country's heritage, voiced by the prime minister in his Independence Day speech.

While the Ram temple construction is in full swing, the government has also worked to rejuvenate India's rich cultural and religious traditions. India's success in Covid vaccination campaign received applaud globally, he said.

The party has also been working to strengthen itself and reached out to 1.3 lakh booths against the target of 72,000, which it had identified to boost its presence, he said.

The party will also commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of social reformer and Arya Samaj founder Dayananda Saraswati in a big way, he said, asserting Modi has worked following his ideals to empower the most deprived people in society.

Agnipath transformative policy...

services are recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17-and-a-half years and 21 years for four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years. For 2022, the upper age limit was raised to 23 years.

Opposition parties have criticised the exercise but the government has said it will make the armed forces more youthful and cater to its current needs.

In his speech, Modi told the recruits that getting posted in different regions will give them an opportunity to get diverse experiences and they should try to learn different languages, cultures and ways of living.

He said that teamwork and the honing of leadership skills will add a new dimension to their personality. He exhorted Agniveers to remain curious about learning new things while simultaneously working on bettering their skills in the fields of their choice.

EC holds consultation...

the meet. Representatives of all eight national parties attended the consultation.

The parties agreed with broad objectives of every effort to include non-voting electors in the election process in the stakeholder consultations on electoral issues which was held after a gap of five years. They also suggested more such discussions on a regular basis in future.

On the request of the parties, the poll panel extended the date of submission of written views by them on various issues on RVM to February 28. The earlier date was January 31.

Representatives from political parties later said that it would move ahead with remote voting only after a consensus emerges between the stakeholders.

"No opposition party wants to see the demonstration of a remote voting machine (RVM). First, the issue of the need to have such a machine should be settled," senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh told reporters after participating in a meeting of political parties convened by the poll body to demonstrate the working of an RVM.

The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said he felt that there would be no RVM demonstration till there is a consensus on having one. No political party is prepared to see the demonstration, he said.

"The idea of RVM is not acceptable," Singh said, adding that the commission should address concerns about electronic voting machines raised by eminent citizens of the country.

The EC should also address the issue of urban apathy towards the election process, the Congress leader said.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh too questioned the need for an RVM, saying there were other ways to increase participation of voters.

"How will we campaign in different states among eligible migrant voters using RVM? When there is a bypoll on one seat, say Jalandhar, how will smaller parties campaign in various states among eligible migrant voters who may be located in different states ... RVM is not acceptable," he added.

The poll panel had invited representatives of eight national and 57 recognised state parties for an RVM demonstration here.

The commission has maintained that RVMs, developed by the public sector undertaking Electronics Corporation of India, will be a standalone device not connected to the internet in any way.