

# Congress, NC severely responsible of KPs' exodus from Valley: Chetan Wanchoo

## Flays Congress for opposing screening of 'The Kashmir Files'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Media Secretary, Chetan Wanchoo held Congress and National Conference severely responsible for the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley. In a statement issued to media here on Tuesday, Wanchoo slammed the Congress leaders who are issuing unwarranted statements creating unnecessary controversy over the just released film 'The Kashmir Files'. Castigating all those including Congress for opposing 'The Kashmir Files', he said that it is really an irony that these elements seem to be disturbed by the stark reality about the ethnic cleansing of the miniscule Kashmiri Pandit Community from the Valley and the atrocities committed on them by the fundamentalists through Pak backed terrorists. Chetan Wanchoo said their response to the film is indicative of the fact that they have also been directly or indirectly involved in this movement that was initiated not only to create and establish the so called Nizam-e-Mustafa not



only in the Valley but extending it to other parts of J&K and the nation. He said that the film has exposed the stark realities of the miseries of KPs and above all the dubious role played by the Congress-NC politicians who made no effort at all to come to the rescue of this miniscule community that ultimately was subjected to the forced exodus getting labelled as refugees/ migrants in their own country. The BJYM leader reminded the people that in 1989 the then government of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was headed none other than by Dr Farooq Abdullah and Congress.

He said how the security list was publically in 1989 those who got security cover? He recalled that on what pretext Dr Farooq Abdullah went to London when his own people of the erstwhile state were killed in large numbers. He

said that during the regime of then Governor Jagmohan most half of the militancy was cleared but appointment of Jagmohan was severely opposed by Rajiv Gandhi in the parliament who was leader of opposition at that time.. Even then the Congress Government headed by the Prime Minister Narshima Rao had extended full support to the separatists to carry on their work. He asked people to be vigilant from so-called politicians of Kashmir Valley whose intentions are not in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Wanchoo said that while the successive regimes prior to BJP Government did nothing at all to ameliorate the Kashmiri Pandits and after BJP Govt coming to power at the Centre Modi Govt has done justice with the KPs to some extent. He said that the PM Modi led BJP Govt is committed for the safe and secure rehabilitation of this miniscule community and the community will soon be settled in their home towns with honour and dignity.

Wanchoo demanded that the government of Jammu and Kashmir should make this movie tax free at par with other states of the country.

# JKEEGA condemns act of corruption by PDD officials

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Executive Council of JKEEGA on Tuesday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Er. Sachin Tickoo, General Secretary in which among who participated were Ashok Dubey, Vice-President, Er.Rajeshwar Jamwal- Provincial Secretary, Parshottam Sharma, Vipul Sharma-treasurer to deliberate on the unfortunate development wherein two engineers who were caught red handed by the ACB. The association strongly resented the act of the officials and felt dejected on account of such inappropriate act in public service.

The law must take its own course and thorough investigation into the matter must take place and if proven guilty, official must be given exemplary punishment.JKEEGA reiterated that it supports the legitimate rights of the engineers and will continue its struggle for the honour and dignity of the fraternity, but at the same time expects highest level of probity from the fraternity members. This episode should prove to be an aberration.

We urge upon all the fraternity members to maintain highest level of propriety in Public service.

# OP Sharma bereaved, Information veterans offer condolences

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Information Department's veterans have mourned the demise of Savitri Devi, mother of former Dy. Director Information, O P Sharma and columnist, who passed away here early this morning after a prolonged illness. Savitri Devi, 90, was the wife of late Hira Lal.

A large number of retirees of the Information Department attended her cremation in the evening and personally offered their heartfelt condolences to O P Sharma.

Later, they also held a condolence meeting and expressed their sympathies with O P Sharma and other members of the bereaved family. The meeting was attended among others by a former Director Information & member of the Public service Commission. Two-minute silence was also observed on the occasion and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

# FCS&CA Jammu celebrates 'World Consumer Rights Day'



FCS&CA employees during a programme.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Jammu celebrated 'World Consumer Rights Day' at Panchayat Ghar Purkhoo (Rural-I) in present of TSO Marh, Raman Sharma and TSO Bhalwal, Nazir Ahmed under supervision of Sonam Verma, Assistant Director Jammu Rural-I. Every year, there is a particular theme which is followed while celebrating World Consumer Rights Day and for this year, the theme was 'Fair Digital

Finance'. The first World Consumer Rights Day was observed in 1983.

Speaking on the occasion, TSOs said that every consumer should be aware regarding his or her needs rights and needs so that they can raise objections in case of any violation. The Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu reasserted every consumer's right to know price, quality, purity, and standards of each product in fair senses. This day is used to impart global awareness about consumer rights and needs.

# YSS Cup: Balakote Block wins cricket tournament

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Balakote Block defeated Mendher Block by four runs in the closely contest final of cricket in the ongoing YSS Cup at Pritem Pevlion, Poonch.

Earlier batting first after winning the toss, Balakote Block scored 96 run for the loss of eight wickets in 10 overs. in reply, Mendher Block failed to chase the target and was bowled out at 92 runs.

Maqsood of Balakote block was declared Man of the match for making 16 runs and grabbing three wickets in the match.

For Mendher Block, Imran was the top scorer and Atif took three wickets.

In the closing ceremony, Bridge Commander 93 Inf. Brigade Rajesh Bishit was the Chief Guest, who appreciated the roll of Department of Youth Services and Sports to promote sports activities among the youth, He also



Winner team posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

distributed winner and runner up trophy to teams in presence of Guest of Honour, Commanding Officer 24 Maar MP Singh and Col. Sanjay Yadav. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Poonch Mohd Qasim expressed thanks to the Brigade Commander to provide ground facilities and encouragement to the participants.

Other present were Narider Singh ZPEO Poonch, Nazir Ahmed ZPEO Balakote, Amarjeet Singh ZPEO Nangali, Jatinder Singh Tondon

ZPEO Kanuyian, Vipen Khajuria ZPEO Surankote and Rajesh Kumar ZPEO Mankote.

Competition conducted under the technical supervision of Sanjay Misre PEM, Kewal Krishan, Rajesh Kumar, Parvaiz Ahmed PET, Parvaiz Malik Afreedi, Shabir Malik, Manzoor Lone, Ajaz Ahmed, Aman Kumar, Devinderpal Singh, Manzoor Rather, Shabir Ahmed, Irfan Yousuf, Sajad Rather and Shahnaz Ahmed. Vijay Kumar PEM acted as Stage Secretary.

# Development oriented J&K budget will meet aspirations of people: Y V Sharma

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Complimenting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allocating highest-ever funds in Budget 2022-23 for Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Y V Sharma, Spokesperson BJP JK, said that this year allocations have been increased by about 400 crores in comparison to last year's budget.

In a press statement issued on Tuesday, Sharma said that Finance Minister has ensured development of infrastructure in almost all sectors like security, medical sector, education, agriculture and rural. "Announcement of completing Railway link from Jammu to Kashmir and starting projects of metro rails in twin cities viz Srinagar and Jammu are other highlights of the budget.

Trade, industry, agriculture and horticulture have also been allocated sufficient funds for opening Mandis, business centres, industrial units etc," said Sharma, adding that a

sizeable allocation of funds for Panchayats, local Bodies and urban Municipal corporations for strengthening grass-root democracy in rural and semi urban areas is also a welcome step.

Sharma reiterated that BJP is committed to bring peace by finishing insurgency and terrorism once for all besides countering threats from across the borders for which an allocation of Rs 10,831 crore has been provided to Home Department. "As there was a demand of making new tourist circuits for the development of Tourism in J&K especially in Jammu, the Finance Minister agreed to the same by ensuring a provision of Rs 70 crore for new circuits including Mansar-Suriansar Sufi circuits besides construction of water parks in twin cities of Jammu and Kashmir. Expressed satisfaction, Sharma called the budget development-oriented, people-friendly, forward-looking and aimed for fulfilling aspirations of people.

# Secretary Sports Council inaugurates J&K UT Senior Men Hockey C'ship



Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul interacting with players.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul on Tuesday declared open Hockey J&K UT Senior Men Championship at KK Hakku Astrotruf Stadium, here.

Hockey J&K organizing this championship every year which was missed in 2021 due to conditions arisen of COVID-19 pandemic. In this championship, 10 teams are participating from Kashmir Division out of total 20 teams. Ashok Singh Jamwal Divisional Sports Officer along with all the coaches and other staff was present in the function. Kuldip Gupta of Kabbadi association, Zorawar Singh of Team Jammu, Atul Gupta of Chess Association also spoke on the occasion. Today's matches were officiated by Tanveerul Haq, Brijesh Kumar, Salim, Sunil and Anjali Thakur. Today's Results: Jammu West beat Bandipora 7-1; Jammu University beat Pulwama 17-1; Kathua beat Kulgam by 21- 0.

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## Army in high...



"The security situation in Northern Command continues to remain volatile, as we are the only command in active operations facing adversaries from both the northern and western front, in addition to the internal security threats," the commander said.

"Northern Command is in a high state of readiness to face the constantly evolving threats and challenges," he added. The commander also brought out that the 'whole of nation approach' has led to progressive improvement in security situation in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The extraordinary zeal and motivation among all ranks reassures me that security of the borders is in safe hands, he said.

At the ceremony, 92 gallantry awards were presented to those who showed exemplary courage under extreme circumstances during anti-terrorist operations and foiling enemy designs on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. Nineteen of the awards were awarded posthumously to the next of kin of soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. Twenty-five distinguished service awards were presented for selfless service to the nation.

The commander further said that 2021 was an exigent year for the armed forces as the troops displayed exceptional bravery through a well-coordinated and an aggressive response strategy on the northern borders. "Our forces have shown exemplary courage and remarkable fortitude in these testing times. I, convey my heartfelt gratitude to the brave soldiers of Indian Army for their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty defying all odds in Operation Rakshak, Operation Meghdoot and Operation Snow Leopard," he said.

He said the Army is committed to defend India's sovereignty and territorial integrity and believes in constructive dialogue through both military and diplomatic means to resolve the border issues. "Restoration of peace and tranquility to enable progress in bilateral relations has been and will remain our constant endeavour: We are keeping a constant watch on all developments and will take all necessary steps to protect our national interests," the commander said. He said besides the operational challenges on the Line of Actual Control and LoC, the Army remain committed to providing succour in the times of natural disasters which includes the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I also take this opportunity to laud the efforts of Covid warriors whose relentless efforts have kept us protected in these testing times," he said. Gen Dwivedi said Operation Sadbhavana' has bridged the gap between the armed forces and people resulting in a better civil-military integration and coordination. "This has been achieved through well-orchestrated developmental work in conjunction with the civil administration and assisting grass-root level development activities in far flung areas under Project Sadbhavana, he said.

A participative approach by all stakeholders coupled with integration of all agencies and synergy of efforts to enhance development, improved educational facilities and employment opportunities for the youth will result in fulfilling the aspirations of the people," he added.

The commander also congratulated all the awardees and their families.

"I commend the veer naris' present here who bear the unfathomable loss of their loved

ones with stoic silence. I wish to reassure you that we stand firmly besides you on your loss and remain committed to ensuring our unstinted support to you. We are deeply committed to ensure your resettlement with utmost dignity in society," he said.

The commander exhorted all ranks of the Northern Command to be prepared for varied challenges on the internal and external security front. "The nation looks upon us in times of crises and we have to live up to the hopes and trust reposed on us by our countrymen," he said. Lauding all ranks of the Northern Command for their dedication and devotion to duty in the highest traditions of the Army, Gen Dwivedi conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the brave men who made the supreme sacrifice while facing adverse situations.

He expressed his gratitude to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and the civil administration for their unstinted support and wished for peace and contentment for the people of the regions.

One Lt Gen and two major generals were among 117 soldiers awarded for gallantry and distinguished service as the Indian Army's northern command conducted an investiture ceremony here to honour its personnel deployed in the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi presented the awards to officers, junior commissioned officers, and other ranks. Ninety-two gallantry awards were presented to those who showed exemplary courage under extreme circumstances and 25 distinguished service awards were presented for selfless service to the nation, a defence spokesman said. Out of the 92 gallantry awards, 19 of them were awarded posthumously to the next of kin of the soldiers who were martyred during combat.

They included Major Mayank Vishnoi of 44 Rashtriya Rifles (Rajput), who had rescued 12 trapped civilians and killed a terrorist during an anti-militancy operation in the valley.

Another was Sepoy Chandan Kumar of 16 Bihar, who had shown exemplary courage during the Snow Leopard operation in Galwan valley in Ladakh, where Chinese and Indian troops were engaged for days in an aggressive face-off along the Sino-Indian border in May 2020. Subedar Sukhdev Singh (16 Grenadiers), Havaldar Gokaran Singh (21 Kumaon), Hav Hardhan Chandra Roy (59 Med regiment), Naib Subedar Ravinder (16 Grenadiers), Naik Gurcharan Singh (14 Punjab), Gunner Bupender (327 Med regiment), and Sepoy Rohin Kumar (14 Punjab) were awarded Sena Medal posthumously for sacrificing their lives on the Line of Control (LoC) fighting ceasefire violations from across the border.

Three paratroopers - Balkrishan, Chhatrapal Singh, and Amit Kumar (all from 4 para special forces) - were honoured with the Sena Medal posthumously for eliminating several heavily armed terrorists trying to infiltrate through the LoC.

Naib Subedar Rajwinder Singh (1 Sikh LI) had foiled an attempt by terrorists to storm a post and killed one of them on August 29, 2020.

Naik Rajesh Kumar (21 RR), Sepoy Prashant Sharma (50 RR), Lance Naik Dinesh Singh (21 RR), and Raj Singh (10 RR), Jilajet Yadav (53 RR), Rahul Rainswal (50 RR) demonstrated their courage during several anti-terrorist operations before making the supreme sacrifice. Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Anjula, under whose command army troops killed eight hardcore terrorists and foiled nine infiltration attempts, was among four recipients of Yudh Seva Medal.

Others who were awarded the medal are Brigadier K Ranjeev Singh, Colonel Pradeep Singh Saun, and Col Purnyabachi Mohanty. Singh had successfully set up a new brigade and made it operation-ready, while Saun had led his troops from 42 Rashtriya Rifles to face a challenging situation in south Kashmir's Tral belt which led to neutralisation of 16 terrorists in eight successful operations. Mohanty was awarded for his role in anti-terrorist operations in J&K and his vital contribution during snow leopard operation in Ladakh.

Eleven brigadiers, 19 Colonel and Lt Colonels and 23 Majors, Captains and Lieutenants too got award. Lt Col (now Col) Rajkumar Pallab was awarded Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry). Seventy-one soldiers received Sena Medal (Gallantry), 10 Sena Medal (distinguished), and 11 others Vishisht Sena Medal.

Maj Gen Rajiv Kumar Singh (Headquarters 91 Sub-area) and Maj Gen Ajay Chandpuria (headquarter 19 division) were awarded with Vishisht Sena Medal.

Presenting the awards, Dwivedi said, I congratulate all the awardees and their proud families, whose singular acts of valour and selfless sacrifice have been instrumental in our success.

## 'Kashmir Files' has...

continuous efforts to "bury the truth". "You must have heard the discussion about the

Kashmir Files, those who carry around the flag of freedom of expression, that whole group is rattled for the last few days," Modi said in his speech whose video was shared on Twitter by the BJP and several party leaders. "Instead of assessing the film on the basis of facts and truth, a campaign is on to discredit it. The whole ecosystem opposes anyone who tries to show the truth. They only try to project what they want to see as truth, the conspiracy for the last few days is to ensure that no one sees the truth," Modi said.

Underlining that history has to be presented in the right context before the society from time to time, Modi said just as books, poetry and literature play a role in this, in the same way even films can do so too.

"My issue is not about a film, but about bringing the truth in its correct form before the country. "There can be many aspects of truth and different views, those who think it is not correct can make their own film, but they are shocked that the truth that they tried to suppress is now coming out with the backing of facts and efforts," Modi said.

He asserted that it is the responsibility of those who stand for truth to stand for this as well. "I hope that everyone will fulfil this," he added.

To further his point, Modi referred to Mahatma Gandhi and said post-independence, the world heard more about Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

"Had someone taken the effort to make a film on Gandhi and presented it to the world, the message may have been delivered," he said, adding it was a foreigner who made a film on him that received much acclaim.

"Some people speak about freedom of expression, but no film was made on Emergency because there was a continuous effort to bury the truth.

"When we decided to mark August 14 as Partition Horrors Day, some people had issues with that...but how can the country forget that day," Modi said.

Most of the BJP-ruled states have made the film, directed by Vivek Agnihotri, tax-free to encourage its viewership. The party maintains that it has consistently raised the issue of displaced Kashmiri Hindus and has accused the previous Congress governments of ignoring their plight.

## Guidelines issued for...

administered to the beneficiaries in the 12-14 years age group at an interval of 28 days, the guidelines said.

The Centre shared also these guidelines with states in a letter issued on Monday. COVID-19 vaccination of children between 12-14 years will begin from March 16 and only Corbevax vaccine would be used for the beneficiaries of age group 12-13 and 13-14 years, it said. Beneficiaries between 14-15 years have already been covered during the vaccination for 15-18 years' age group.

According to the guidelines, as of March 1, 2021 there are as many as 4.7 crore children aged 12 and 13 years in the country.

Also, precaution dose can now be provided to all persons aged 60 years and above and the prioritization and sequencing of this dose would be based on completion of nine months -- 39 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose.

The guidelines said the vaccination of precaution dose should be with the same vaccine with which primary vaccination was done.

According to the guidelines, all beneficiaries born in 2010 or earlier -- those who have already attained the age of 12 years -- will be able to register on CoWIN.

"The vaccination slots will be booked for 12-14 years age group for 'CorBEvax' only through Co-WIN. Vaccinator has to ensure that the vaccine is administered to only those children who have completed the age of 12 years on the date of vaccination and if a child is registered but has not attained the age of 12 years, the vaccination is not to be given," the guidelines said. The registration can be done through the following modes -- self-registration through an existing account on Co-WIN of a family member or by creating a new account through a unique mobile number (this facility is available for all eligible citizens presently), it said.

It can also be done through onsite registration by the vaccinator in facilitated registration mode and appointments can be booked online or onsite (walk-in) for 12-14 years.

Vaccination of 12-14 years would be conducted through dedicated inoculation sessions -- that is earmarked COVID-19 vaccination centres for 12-14 years' age-group -- to avoid their unintended vaccination with any other COVID-19 vaccines.

The guidelines said all citizen irrespective of their income status are entitled to free COVID-19 vaccination at government Covid centres.