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J&K budget reflects...

357 crore for Solid Waste Management in two Municipal Corporations and 76 ULBs and Rs 1,313 crore for PRLs/ULBs.

Empowering the grass root democratic set up, Rs 200 crore @ Rs10 crore each has been earmarked as 'Development Fund' for 20 DDCs and Rs 71.25 crore @ Rs 25 lakh each as 'Development Fund' for 285 BDCs.

Rs 1206 crore have been provisioned for Equity Component of Kiru and Ratle Power Projects under execution; Rs 200 crore for heritage preservation and development of suf/religious sites; Rs 373 crore for Dal-Nageen lake Development and Conservation; Rs 120 crore have been earmarked for encouraging use of renewable energy (Solar Energy).

Rs 450 crore have been provisioned for GST re-imbursement to ensure timely reimbursement of claims. Provision of Rs 200 crore has been kept for capitalization of the J&K Bank Ltd. Rs 20 crore for establishment of highway resting places; Rs 400 crore for CRIF roads, Rs 2400 crore for PMGSY roads and Rs 1000 crore for NABARD scheme and Rs 28 crore for maintenance of Mughal Road.

Special provisions have been kept for Women empowerment and welfare of farmers & tribal community with Rs 12 crore under Tajewini scheme for empowerment of women and full UT share under NRLM to improve livelihood of women in rural areas, besides Rs 3 crore under Women Entrepreneurship Programme implemented by Women Development Corporation. Rs 100 crore have been provisioned for welfare of tribals which include construction of Tribal Hostels/Milk Villages/ Nomad Shelters/Libraries for Gujjars. Moreover, Rs 40 crore have been provisioned for saturation of Soil Health Cards, Krishi Radio & Krishi Helpline.

"Mera Gaon Swachh Gaon"- a cleanliness programme to be initiated in all villages during 2022-23. An amount of Rs 100 crore have been earmarked for Urban Infrastructure Fund to ensure expeditious supplementation of SBM 2.0; Rs 90 crore have been provisioned for Third Party Monitoring, improving rating in Good Governance Index, PPP Cell, VGF, setting up of Transaction Advisory Cell and consultancy; Rs 150 crore have been provisioned for development of new housing colonies; Rs 50 crore for construction of police housing colony and Rs 40 crore for relief and rehabilitation.

An amount of Rs 100 crore each has been kept for the festival and cinema/theatre (films) promotion; Rs 70 crore for new circuits including Mansar, Surinsar & Sufi Circuits, besides construction of Water Parks in twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar and Rs 50 crore for retrieval of land under Roshni Act.

Rs 150 crore have been provisioned for Urban Renewal and Development Fund including Creation of City Sustainability Fund to promote/incentivize reforms such as Property Tax, Service Level Benchmarking, User Charges, Creation of Ward Sabhas, Public Disclosure, For Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, Rs 15 crore have been provisioned; besides Rs 600 crore kept under Border Area Development Programme; Rs 50 crore for Samridhi Seema Yojana; Rs 100 crore have been provisioned under City Grants for JMC/SMC; Rs 200 crore for smart city projects; Rs 200 crore for procurement of Machinery and Equipments and Rs 400 crore for procurement of drugs in health sector; Rs 5 crore have been provisioned for insurance of passenger vehicles as part of Business Revival Package and Rs 25 crore as subsidy for replacement of old vehicles; Rs 10 crore have been provisioned for achieving end-to-end Digitization of Revenue Records, issuance of Land Pass Books/Devices for Patwaris.

Agriculture & allied sectors, along with the welfare of farmers has been one of the important components of the budget.

8.93 lakh farmers to be benefitted by distribution of High Yielding Varieties/Hybrid seeds with an investment of Rs 23.97 crore. 36,000 farmers will be trained for capacity building with a provision of Rs. 27 crore.

Around 16,960 farmers to be benefitted by covering over 15240 hectares area by providing infrastructure facilities with a provision of around Rs 55.80 crore.

Rs 81 cr have been earmarked for providing farm machinery to benefit 33,200 farmers. Livelihood of around 44204 farmers will have a major impact under Area Expansion. Moreover, Rs 30 crore has been kept for restoration of irrigation for 8,670 hectare of land by maintenance of Field Channels.

50,000 Metric Ton Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of horticulture produce is targeted for completion during 2022-23. The focus will be to reach a Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of about 5 Lakh Metric Tons in next three years.

Subsidized air freight to be provided under "PAIRVAZ" scheme to push trout exports to various cities and Middle East countries.

The budget 2022-23 has also put focus on further strengthening of the healthcare system in J&K.

The pace of coverage of AB-PMJAY to be accelerated during 2022-23 covering all the residents of J&K.

First Batch of MBBS classes in New Medical colleges at Handwara (Kupwara) and Udhampur to be started during academic session 2022-23 increasing the overall intake capacity to 1300 MBBS seats in J&K.

Availability of Doctors and Specialists in New Government Medical Colleges to be increased for better patient management and reduction of referrals, besides seven remaining Nursing Colleges to be completed during 2022-23.

The UT of J&K is all set to double the Hydropower Generation Capacity in next 3 years from the existing capacity of 3500 MW. In this direction, 5 Mega Hydro-power projects viz Ratle (824 MW), Kirthai-II (930 MW) Sawalkot (1856 MW), Dulhasti-Stage II (258 MW) and Uri-I Stage-II (240 MW) having total capacity of 4134 MW have been taken-up for execution in collaboration with NHPC. The likely investment in these projects is Rs 34882 crore and on completion will make J&K power surplus.

Ongoing HEPs i.e., Kiru (624 MW), Kawar (540 MW) and Pakaldul (1000 MW) are being developed through Joint Venture. By 2022-23, major civil and electro-mechanical works of these projects will be completed.

The transmission capacity is expected to reach 12655 MVA by March 2022 and the transmission capacity at 220/132 KV level and 132/33 KV level is expected to be increased by 520 MVA and 580 MVA respectively in 2022-23.

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) a new reforms-based and result-linked scheme introduced by Ministry of Power (GoI) aimed at reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses; 100% prepaid metering, besides 6 lakh Smart Pre-paid meters to be installed (3 lakh each in Jammu & Kashmir Divisions).

Focus to be laid on promotion of tourism by vibrant campaigning and holding of national and international events showcasing the tourism avenues during 2022-23.

The coverage of Households with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) under the flagship programme 'Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal' for the remaining Households are targeted to be completed by August 15th, 2022. Besides, all rural households, Community Centers, Ashramshallas and other Government offices will be provided with piped water by August, 2022.

1,589 Water Supply Schemes are targeted to be completed and balance portion of work on 'Iawi Barrage costing Rs 73.34 crore is expected to be completed during 2022-23.

Overall 6000 Kms of black topping of roads to be achieved during 2022-23 under various components; 543 new projects at an estimated cost of Rs 2,237 crore to be sanctioned with NABARD funding; maintenance of existing Road Infrastructure and completion of 50 bridges under Central/UT Sector schemes during 2022-23 will ensure better road connectivity across the UT.

Budget component has been kept for the Housing and Urban Development sector to change the landscape of urban J&K.

The project for the Elevated Light Metro Rail System in Jammu & Srinagar is expected to be rolled out in 2022-23 and is likely to be completed by 2026.

A target of scientific disposal of about 850 Metric Ton of waste per day to be achieved by establishment of Solid Waste Management Plant at Srinagar and Jammu cities benefitting nearly 20 Lakh people.

Establishment of decentralized processing facilities in 76 ULBs has been targeted for completion during financial year 2022-23 and 690 Metric Ton of waste generated in ULBs to be scientifically treated benefitting nearly 14 lakh population.

9 major sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 1131.07 crore to be executed during 2022-23 benefitting the population of 6,20,565 people.

Rural development & economy will get a major boost in 2022-23. Under MGNREGA, 426 lakh persondays to be generated; 60,000 job cards to be issued based on demand, and One lakh development works of different nature to be completed.

Targets have been set for constructing 54,000 houses during 2022-23 under PMAY-G; 87250 IHHL and 2,500 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) under SBM-G.

Under National Rural Livelihoods Mission, focus to be laid on capacity building, livelihood promotion, convergence and women enterprise planning, besides 21,194 Self Help Groups (SHG) to be formed during 2022-23.

Construction of residential/office accommodation for members of DDCs/BDCs/PRLs has been initiated. A provision of Rs. 176.32 crore has been kept for 2022-23.

As far as education sector is concerned, 500 Kindergartens to be established in government schools; 518 smart/virtual classrooms in higher secondary schools for increasing enrolment, and imparting quality education to students. 200 Vocational Laboratories and 40 schools having vocational labs will act as hubs for imparting vocational/skill training.

37 Girls Hostel Buildings and 12 KGBV buildings to be completed for improving residential facilities for girls and bringing about desired gender parity in education.

Special attention has been given to the Education of tribal students with construction of two residential schools, one each in the districts of Rajouri & Shopian to be taken up, besides 8,000 meritorious tribal students to be given tablets.

100% coverage of pre-matric and post-matric scholarship to Tribal students with 100% disbursement through DBT expected to be accomplished in 2022-23.

Adequate provision has been kept for providing incentives to prospective entrepreneurs as per J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30.

An amount of Rs 150 crore has been earmarked for development of New Industrial Estates; Rs 3.91 crore for construction of 7 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in the existing Industrial Estates and Rs 25 crore for organizing J&K Global Investor's Summit including domestic/international roadshows.

1,354 units targeted to be established under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (J&K-REGP) involving margin money of Rs 25 crore with employment to 8,124 persons in 2022-23.

2000 Cooperatives/Self Help Groups to be covered under credit card scheme. 7% interest subvention for availing loan upto Rs 2 lakh by artisans under Artisan Credit Card Scheme.

Social Security of the citizens of J&K has been given dedicated focus. Old Age Homes to be established in all districts. Motorized triicycles to be provided to all Handicapped persons thereby achieving 100% saturation for which Rs 25 crore have been provisioned.

Transgenders have been for the first time included for pensionary benefits under ISSS. For the welfare of Tribal community, 29 Cluster Model Villages are being established and are at different stages of implementation; establishment of 14 Milk villages and seven transit accommodations/shelter sheds with an estimated cost of Rs 3.50 crore each to be taken up, besides Six Eklavya Model Residential Schools for ST students are being established.

To empower and provide self-employment opportunities to youth, Rs 200 crore have been kept under "Mission Youth Programme".

An amount of Rs 60 crore has been provisioned as a self employment measure under Youth Start-up/Seed Capital/Women Entrepreneurship Programme (WEP).

Provision has been kept for Digitization of Police Stations and installation of CCTVs in police stations; 10,109 Community/Individual Bunkers are being constructed in the border districts, and e-office will be implemented in all offices of J&K in 2022-23.

LeT terrorist killed...

police spokesman said. As the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist began firing indiscriminately upon it, leading the forces to retaliate.

In the encounter, one terrorist was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter. He has been identified as Owais Raja, a resident of Subhanpora.

As per police records, the killed terrorist was a categorized terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT. He was part of a group involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on Police/SF (security forces) and civilian atrocities, the spokesman said.

He said that Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, has termed this operation very important as it was carried out very close to the Srinagar-Jammu national highway and the threat was imminent.

Incriminating materials, including an AK-56 rifle, three AK Magazines, and 80 AK rounds were recovered from the site of the encounter.

All recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation, the spokesman said.

Two JKAS officers...

Dar, JKAS, Director General, Social Welfare, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission and Raj Kumar Katoch, JKAS, Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the GAD.

Shabnam Kamili, JKAS, Mission Director; ICPS, J&K, shall hold the charge of the post of Director General, Social Welfare, Kashmir; in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

AC gives nod...

will also be constructed to boost economic activity therein. The project will be completed in 2 years. Similarly, the administrative approval was also given to the construction of Multi Storey Bus Stand at Ramban at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.44 Crore. The project will create additional parking spaces to de-congest Ramban town, ease traffic congestion and develop the area as a vibrant economic centre

The project will be constructed on an area of 5033 sq.mtrs to accommodate 20 buses on the ground floor and 50 light motor vehicles in the first floor. It will be completed within 2 years. Meanwhile, the Administrative Council has also approved the proposal of Revenue Department to transfer various parcels of land for public purposes.

The Administrative Council approved the transfer of land measuring 144 Kanal 12 Marla in Hiranagar, District Kathua in favour of Youth Services and Sports Department, J&K for construction of Sh. Arun Jaitely Memorial Sports Complex.

The decision aims to provide quality sporting infrastructure for games like Cricket, Hockey, Football, Wrestling and Athletics and bring Kathua and Samba Districts on the sporting map of India.

The Sports Complex will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.23 crore and provide avenues to the local sportspersons to excel in their respective disciplines.

Moreover, approval was given to the transfer of land measuring 740 Kanal 9.5 Marla in favour of Industries and Commerce Department for the establishment of New Industrial Estate in District Shopian. The upcoming industrial estate will boost the economic activity and industrial development in the area and provide entrepreneurial and employment opportunities to the youth.

The Administrative Council further approved the transfer of land measuring 750 Kanal in favour of Industries & Commerce Department for setting up a Medicity. Operationalization of the Medicity will bring world-class health care infrastructure and facilities to the region, besides providing employment opportunities to the medical/pharma professionals, local pharmacists and vendors.

Pulwama CRPF attack...

powder; big-knives, laser-pointers, mobile covers etc. The accused used to make payment either by cash on delivery or using debit card of one Anayat Malik.

It was further said that as per investigation, the accused Waiz-ul-Islam had received 1 Kg Aluminum powder in early January 2019 and again in late January 2019, he received 3 Kg aluminum powder through Amazon. These consignments of aluminum powder were used in VBIED attack on February 14, 2019 on CRPF vehicles at Lethpora Pulwama. It was also alleged that accused Waiz-ul-Islam used to deliver the incriminating articles at Nowgam Bye-pass to JeM terrorists. Through the medium of plea, it was claimed by the accused Waiz-ul-Islam that last consignment of aluminum powder was allegedly received by him from Amazon on January, 2019 whereas, his date of birth January 25, 2001. As such, according to the applicant, he was a juvenile at the time of commission of offence and therefore, he may be declared as juvenile and as such, is entitled to be dealt with under provisions of J&K Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2013 read with Rules 2014.

Special Judge NIA Sunit Gupta after hearing both sides, observed that when two special acts have over riding effect upon other laws, in such an eventuality the provisions of which law would prevail upon. This controversy was set at rest by some of the High Courts. In a case entitled Khalid Mehmood V/s State of NCT of Delhi, High court of Delhi has made observations 'Section 25 of TADA Act has a non-obstante clause providing for an over-riding effect to provisions over anything in consistent therewith contained in any other enactment or any instrument having effect by virtue of any other enactment. TADA, being a special act meant to curb menace of terrorist and disruptive activities will have effect notwithstanding the fact that JJ Act is general and beneficial legislation. On perusal of aims and objects of TADA, it is clear that act is brought into statue books to deal with a special category of a person, viz terrorist. Thus, TADA being an act enacted for special purposes will have precedence over any other act including juvenile Justice Act.' Meanwhile, in 'Jagadish Bhuyan V/s State of Assam & Ors' Guwahati High Court has observed 'Although both juvenile justice Act and TADA (P) Act are special acts, section 25 of TADA Act contains a non-obstante clause with a view to give TADA Act in case of conflict and over-riding effect over the provisions in any enactment or instrument mentioned in non-obstante clause. Keeping in view the clear language of section 25 of TADA Act, we are unable to accept that TADA Act cannot over ride provisions of juvenile justice Act.'

Court observed that though in the aforesaid judgements, the High Courts were dealing with TADA cases and not of Unlawful Activities Cases, but it is to be observed that language of non-obstante clause under section 25 of TADA Act and the language of section 48 of UA(P) Act are in juxtaposition and the same analogy can be applied in the present case. Otherwise also, it is to be observed that whenever there is conflict between two special statutes in such eventuality, the later in time would prevail upon the other. In the present case, J&K Juvenile Justice Act 2013 was came in force with effect from 25th April 2013 but this act is merely reproduction of earlier JJ Act 1997 with some modifications. On the other hand, the provisions of UA (P) Act have been mainly introduced in 2008, otherwise the earlier act of Unlawful Activities Act 1967 was made redundant after the introduction of TADA Act and POTA Act. But when all of these acts which deals with the terrorist activities were repealed by the legislature, in such eventuality a new Unlawful Activities Act was introduced in the year 2008 with introduction of some new draconian provisions which were not existing earlier in time. As it is observed in the aforesaid judgments, these like acts of TADA/POTA & UA (P) Act are meant for dealing with the terrorist activities and therefore, no relaxation can be afforded in such like cases to allow the accused persons for availing any kind of such facility in order to escape from the criminal liability. With these observations, Court rejected the application moved by accused Waiz-ul-Islam for taking plea of juvenility.

AEE, AE of...

Police Station ACB, Jammu under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 and 120 of IPC and a trap team was hatched by ACB, which caught both officers, red handed, in act of accepting bribe and were taken into custody, said official, adding that

bribe money was also recovered from their possession in presence of independent witnesses. Searches were conducted at residences of both accused and matter is further being inquired, he said.

71 Patwaris promoted...

to the Decentralisation Rules from 2019 onwards.

With the intervention of Divisional Commissioner Jammu, the issue was finally resolved after holding several rounds of discussions with Patvar Associations and District associations and final agreement to promote 71 Patwaris as Girdawars whose vigilance clearance and APRs have been received.

The officials promoted include 09 of Doda district, 11 of Jammu district, 11 of Kathua, 07 of Kishtwar , 06 of Rajouri, 5 of Ramban, 5 of Reasi,04 of Samba, 04 of Poonch and 09 of Udhampur district.

Moreover, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu has also expedited the process for promotion of more Patwaris to the post of Girdawars as 145 post of Girdawars are lying vacant.

Hijab row: Karnataka...

In its 129-page judgement, the court said that school uniform will cease to be a uniform if hijab is also allowed.

The Special Leave Petition(SLP) before the apex court contended that the high court has failed to note that the right to wear a hijab comes under the ambit of expression' and is thus protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

In Udupi, the petitioner students from two junior colleges in the coastal town put up a brave face, and said they will not go to college without hijab and will fight the case legally till they get "justice".

"We will fight for justice and our rights.

"The verdict which came today is unconstitutional...the Constitution itself provides us (our rights) to follow my religion and whatever I can wear," one of the students told a news conference.

While Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai urged everyone to abide by the judgement and maintain peace, saying education was primary, the Muslim students' body Campus Front of India (CFI) said it is an "alarming sign" that the judiciary interprets religious texts.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh said efforts will be made to bring the 'misguided' Muslim girls to mainstream after the "landmark" verdict.

All Tertiary Care...

Officer NABH, Dr. Atul Kochar, and heads of all the line departments of Health and Medical Education, it was decided that three hospitals each in Jammu and Srinagar shall be put to entry level certification for NABH in the beginning followed by full level accreditation. The Institutions indentified in Jammu included SMGS Hospital Jammu, Super Speciality Hospital and Dental Hospital while LD Hospital, Super Speciality Hospital and Dental Hospital Srinagar were identified in Kashmir division besides all the AYUSH institutions in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

In this regard, the first three day onsite orientation program was started today at Government Medical College Srinagar in which 40 participants from GMC Srinagar and its Associated Hospitals participated for necessary training.

Similar onsite programme for the Government Medical College, Jammu and its Associated Hospitals shall be conducted on 21st March 2022 and for the AYUSH Institutions on 23rd March 2022.

The programme is aimed at improving the quality of healthcare delivery by identifying the gaps in infrastructure, equipment, allied services besides streamlining the quality of human resources. The gap analysis will serve as an audit of the entire healthcare system which shall be filled in a systematic manner:

Sonia axes Congress...

assembly polls. The Congress failed to wrest the four BJP-ruled states and lost Punjab to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

"Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhii has asked the PCC Presidents of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur to put in their resignations in order to facilitate reorganisation of PCCs," chief spokesperson for the party Randeep Surjewala said on Twitter.

Sidhu, Uttarakhand state unit chief Ganesh Godiyal, and his Manipur counterpart N Loken Singh were all appointed PCC presidents in the run up to the assembly elections.

Gandhi has also sought the resignation of Girish Chodankar, who heads the Goa unit, and Uttar Pradesh PCC president Ajay Kumar Lallu.

G-23 leaders to...

to Sonia Gandhi in 2020 demanding an organisational overhaul.

The decision to convene a meeting of the G-23 came on a day when Sonia Gandhi sought the resignation of Congress presidents of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa following the party's dismal performance in the assembly elections.

Sibal, in his latest salvo targeting the leadership had said the Gandhis should step aside and give some other leader a chance to helm the party, provoking a backlash from Gandhi family loyalists who accused him of speaking the language of the BJP and RSS.

"Leadership is in cuckoo land I want a 'Sab ki Congress'. Some want a 'Ghar ki Congress'," Sibal told the Indian Express in an interview.

The G-23 has, however, got weakened over time with senior leader M Veerappa Moily distancing himself from the group, Jitin Prasada joining the BJP, and Mukul Wasnik not attending its meetings in recent times.

Unlike India, national...

watched how the heir-apparent of Indian political system held incognito interactions with Chinese in New Delhi while the notorious People's Liberation Army was engaged in making unsuccessful advances in Ladakh. The people also remember how a senior Opposition leader begged off Pakistanis to help his party regain the lost power during his visit to Islamabad. The trend of demonizing the country and demoralizing the valiant forces appears to be the shortcut for gaining popularity. This is the only way to rehabilitate the corridors of power in a nation called India. Why so?

It has been too much of democracy in India that licenses anti-nationals and even terrorists to openly challenge the national security apparatus; leave apart the democratically elected governments that have been on their radar all the time. Did the Indian opposition-impregnated by pseudo seculars, self-styled liberals, urban naxals, radicalised elements, Jihadi outfits-ever demonstrate solidarity on issues pertaining to the security of the nation?

The treacheries of the India bashers, particularly by those having affirmed by its Constitution, once, twice or many times, should be treated as aggression against the national sovereignty. It is alright in democracy to oppose and criticize the government on its policies, programmes, failures but undermining security of the nation should not be condoned at any cost. Those daring to cross the red lines should be treated as enemies of the nation. They are, in fact, more dangerous than the enemies, like Jai Chand, who failed Bharat during its crucial time is history. Nationalist Indians must draw lessons from repeated failures of Mohammad Ghori's incursions against Prithviraj Chauhan and the one last victory against him, courtesy Jai Chand. The modern-day Jai Chands are drawing oxygen from the ecosystem created by the high dose of democracy.

The example of the Jai Chand episode may appear redundant or irrelevant to the obtaining scenario across the country but narrating this is to drive home the point that once mistrusted should never be trusted again. Will the nationalists draw any lesson from history?

The seditious elements should be tackled like the bull which is caught by horns to keep it under control. The seditious elements, terrorists and anti-nationals, who are actually worse than the wild animals, should know that India can't take their tantrums in stride anymore. They must be made to know that they will have to face the consequences of their wrong doings. Since India is a democracy it can't do what is being done in Germany against those who point fingers against their national heroes. India is governed by the Constitution and its provisions can be implemented only when the government(s) rise above politics and strategic compulsions and treat an anti-national like an anti-national. If done, it will be difficult for wrong-doers during the judicial dispensation to run from the noose once law takes its own course.

What happens if...

and Kashmir, enjoying whopping advertisement support and many concessions, feel it their privilege and status symbol to criticize the government and question the handling of security related issues. The more the media houses bully the government, the more they get the governmental attention and support. It has become fashionable with many in the journalistic fraternity to oppose the government, not on genuine issues, but on flimsy grounds to push forward their agenda. In the process, the national interest gets jeopardised. Watch any television chat room, one side of the panel can be seen hammering the government and its law enforcing agencies as per the editorial policy of the organisation. They go lock, stock and barrel to bruise the national psyche. Same is true about the print media, which is mostly seen indulging in acts not in the larger interest of the nation or the society. Such tendencies, under the garb of democracy, have hugely dented the image of the media, as the people take even genuine criticism by meaningful media houses as bullying tactics in order to derive benefits. Of course, the inherent weaknesses in the establishments also contribute to this malady but the media gets overpowering most of the time and crosses red lines, to the extent of breaching national interest.

Should this trend be allowed for the sake of democracy, the day is not far when a powerful section of the media will emerge as a grave threat to the system.