

DB sets-aside life imprisonment of husband

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar set-aside life-imprisonment awarded to one Kamlesh Kumar, husband of deceased.

DB after hearing Adv Anmol Sharma for appellant whereas Advocate Sumit Bhatia for UT observed that having ring-side appraisal of facts and circumstances and quality and not the quantity of evidences on record, the Court is of considered view that the prosecution has miserably failed to prove the circumstances by leading evidence beyond any reasonable doubt. We do not find it a case where prosecution has proved and established the circumstances firmly and conclusively by leading evidence beyond any reasonable doubt, which form a chain complete in itself, leading to a hypothesis which is inconsistent with innocence of appellant. "Deceased was seen going to the forest with her goat merrily; conduct of the appellant rushing to his in-laws house instead of making search of his wife, who had not returned home till evening; failure of the appellant to lead evidence

to prove that at the time of commission of crime he was present at a place other than scene of occurrence, would all pale into insignificance. Firstly there is no concrete evidence in this regard and secondly it is for the prosecution which brings out charge against accused to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt, if not, beyond any iota of doubt. The onus to prove case put up by the prosecution against accused lies solely on prosecution, except in the cases where statute provide reverse burden. In the instant case there was no reverse burden on the accused and, therefore, it was not necessary for him to prove that at the time of occurrence he was at a place other than the place of occurrence or in other words plead and prove the plea of alibi more so when the prosecution had not been able to establish even the foundation facts," the Court observed. As per the case details, on May 19, 2014, Police Station Pancheri received information through reliable sources that dead-body of a woman namely, Sushma Devi, wife of appellant, resident of village Katti, Tehsil and District Udhampur, aged about 19-

20 years was found hanging with root of Kail tree with Dupatta around her neck at Khalia Dabbar jungle, Katti. The reason of death of woman was not known. Since death of Sushma Devi was found to have taken place under suspicious circumstances, as such, SHO Pancheri, Harminder Singh, initiated proceedings under Section 174 of CrPC. With a view to take inquest proceedings further, the Investigating Officer along with other police personnel camped on roadside at Latyar District Udhampur and statement of PW-2, Rano Devi, the mother of deceased was recorded under Section 175 CrPC, wherein she stated that deceased was married to appellant a year back. The husband of deceased, the appellant herein, used to beat Sushma Devi for bringing less dowry items and was continuously demanding more items and deceased used to narrate this to her family members. The mother of deceased, while continuing with her statement, stated that appellant was told that they do not have sufficient sources at that time and whenever they would have sufficient sources, they would provide him more

dowry items. The appellant was requested not to harass deceased but he did not mend his ways and was regularly beating deceased. Later, on May 18, 2014, the appellant thrashed deceased due to which she was left with no alternative but to end her life by hanging herself at Katti Khalia Dabbar forest. With the aforesaid statement of mother of deceased, the Investigating Officer found that offence punishable under Section 498-A RPC was, prima facie, made out against appellant. Accordingly, a docket was sent to Police Station for registration of the FIR, pursuant to which, FIR No.17/2014 under Section 498-A/306 of RPC was registered at Police Station Pancheri. After completion of investigation Challan was presented in trial court, which awarded life-imprisonment to appellant and thereafter present appeal was filed. DB after hearing both sides allowed the appeal and ordered, "Judgment of conviction and impugned order of sentence is set aside and appellant is acquitted of all the charges. He shall be set at liberty forthwith, if not wanted in any other case."

SAVE lodges FIR for killing of homeless dog

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: A stray dog died after allegedly being beating by a man in village Ghagwal of district Samba.

As per report, a 50 year old man running a small Khokha inside Mandi area named Fau killed a black stray dog by attacking the it with a Toka, inflicting two deep wounds at the back of the victim.

The cuts were so deep that the vertebrae and spinal cord was cut and the dog was initially rescued by local youth and given first aid but dog kept screaming in immense pain and died yesterday, report said.

Talking to Chairperson 'Save Animals Value Environment', Devinder Kaur Madaan, we were told that increasing cases of animal abuse being reported from different districts in J&K is a cause for worry. People have started venting their frustration on helpless animals. Low convictions in cases of Animal abuse is the reason people are not scared to harm helpless animals. 'Save Animals Value Environment Organisation has lodged an FIR No. 0041 against the man at the police station.

'Wind-up Sarore Toll Plaza without delay'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market Jammu on Wednesday appealed to the Government to abolish Sarore Toll Plaza in view of the latest statement of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in which he said that there should be no toll plaza within 60 kms on National Highways and he will ensure the norms are fully implemented in the next three months.

Federation President, Deepak Gupta, in a meeting, said that Sarore toll plaza should be removed immediately as there is less than 60 km distance between Ban toll plaza and Sarore toll plaza. Gupta said that the



Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market Jammu President, Deepak Gupta speaking in a meeting.

Section 8 of the National Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, which read: "Any other Toll Plaza on the same section of national highway and in the same direction shall not be established within a distance of 60 kilometers". "The distance between the Sarore Toll Plaza and Ban Toll Plaza is approxi-

mately 37.04 kilometers as such the NHAI has violated its own rule", Gupta said. Others present in the meeting include Munish Mahajan, Sr. Vice President, Abhimanyu Gupta, Vice President, Sham Lal Langer, General Secretary, Vishal Gupta, Secretary and Amit Gupta, Cashier of the Federation.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Kot Bhalwal, Karwanda, Ghaink, Sehri, Barn Patta, Marjali, Central Jail and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 25 from 9 am to 3 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Satwari, Ashok

Nagar, Shastri Nagar, and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 26 from 9 am to 3 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Reasi and Katra shall remain affected on March 25 from 10 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Kishtwar Town and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 25 and 27 from 9 am to 3 pm. Meanwhile,

Superintending Engineer JPDCL O&M Circle Jammu has informed that the power supply to Bawa Talab and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 24 from 8 am to 1 pm. Similarly, the power supply to area cover under 11 kv feeders Covid-1, 4 and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 24 from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Bhim lodges complaint against Harsh, Gagan

Jaya Mala urges NPP workers to strengthen Harsh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The founder of Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party, Prof. Bhim Singh on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the police against former Minister and Chairman of his own party Harsh Dev Singh and his supporter Gagan Pratap Singh accusing both for harassing and threatening him. Prof Singh has submitted the complaint in writing to the Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu and demanded the police to take action in this matter. In his complaint, Prof Bhim Singh stated, "I have been harassed and threatened of dire consequences by Harsh Dev Singh Former Minister and his supporter Gagan Partap Singh, son of late Karan Dev Singh on my mobile No 9871565333 dated March 21, 2022 at about 4:00 PM and at about 9:00 PM respectively for the reasons better known to them and I

have been threatened and harassed several times in the past by the aforesaid persons." Bhim added "I have some recordings in this connection but the same are not complete. There is every apprehension that the aforesaid persons may cause damage/injury to me and my caring daughter Anita Thakur who is the general secretary of JKNPP and a situation has arisen which has necessitated the intervention of yourself to take action against the aforesaid persons under the relevant provisions of the law. Hence the instant representation. I am terribly harassed and threatened and my Caring daughter is also under mental tension. It is therefore requested that please take necessary action under the relevant provisions of the law. It is necessary to mention here that I am security protected person and Anita Thakur is also under protection." Meanwhile, the video of

the uproar in the Panthers Party meeting held last day has gone viral wherein Harsh Dev Singh emotionally apologized to Prof. Bhim Singh. Later, coming out openly in favour of Harsh Dev Singh, the founder member of NPP, Jaya Mala, wife of Prof. Bhim Singh pledged all out support to the Former NPP Minister. In a press conference held at Jammu, Jaya Mala described Harsh Dev as the true champion of the people and the lone crusader fighting against the present day dictatorial regime. Alleging a deep rooted conspiracy behind the vilification campaign launched by certain vested interests against Harsh Dev, Jaya Mala urged upon the people not to be swayed by such false propaganda. She appealed to the NPP workers and public in general to strengthen the hands of Harsh Dev in the ultimate interests of the common masses of the UT.

J&K deficit by 78 officers Annual intake of IAS, IPS officers increased: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Annual intake of IAS and IPS officers through Civil Services Examination (CSE) has been increased. While in case of IAS, it has been increased to 180 till CSE -2021, in case of IPS from 150 to 200 with effect from CSE-2020.

This was disclosed here on in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

The Minister further informed that the Government has constituted a Committee for recommending the intake of Direct Recruit IAS officers every year through CSE from CSE-2022 to CSE-2030.

As far as IPS is concerned, Dr Jitendra stated that the intake of IPS (RR officers) through CSE (Civil Services Examination) has been increased from 150 to 200 w.e.f. CSE-2020. Further, filling up of vacancies through induction from State Services is a continuous process and Selection Committee Meetings are held by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) with the State Governments, he said.

The details of strength of IAS officers

of various cadres, represented as Total Authorized Strength, which comprises of Senior Duty Posts (SDP), Central Deputation Reserve (40% of SDP), State Deputation Reserve (25% of SDP), Training Reserve (3.5% of SDP), Leave Reserve & Junior Reserve (16.5% of SDP) and those in-position as on 01.01.2021 were also furnished by the Minister. Dr Jitendra Singh, in reply to a question, said that many States/UTs were deficient in strength. These included Jammu & Kashmir which had 59 officers in position against the total authorised cadre strength of 137, which means deficit by 78 officers.

The Cadre Rules of all three All India Services viz IAS, IPS and IPoS contain provisions governing the central deputation of AIS officers.

However, State Governments have not been sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation. Accordingly, in terms of the provisions contained in Section 3 of All India Services Act, 1951, comments have been sought from States/UTs on a proposal to amend Rule 6(1) of respective cadre rules.

Series of events mark Shaheedi Diwas in colleges



GGM Science College students and faculty during a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On 23 March 1931, three Indian freedom fighters namely Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru were hanged by the British rulers in Lahore jail. To remember and pay tributes to them, educational institutions organized various events.

The NSS unit of Government College of Education organized a series of programmes to pay tributes to these freedom fighters. The programmes held were Plog Run, Poster and Slogan Making Competition, Blood Donation, Light A Candle and Social Media Publicity. In the beginning, NSS Nodal Officer, Dr Shubhra Jamwal welcomed all the dignitaries, students, NSS volunteers and staff members. A one minute silence was observed by the members of the management, students, faculty and non-teaching staff as a mark of respect towards the martyrs. Dr Kulvinder Kour, Principal of GCOE, in her presidential address, urged students to read the autobiography of freedom fighters and inculcate at least one of their qualities in life.

The judges of the event were Prof Satish Sharma, Dr Anuradha Seth, and Prof Savtanter Kour. First, second and third prize was bagged by Shivali Sharma, Arushi Sharma and Samreeti Verma in Poster Making Competition. In Slogan Making Competition first prize was bagged by Arushi Sharma, Second and Third prize was given to Rinchin Dolkar and Kanchan Sharma.

Dr Sushma Bala, Prof Rubina Yasmeen, Prof Satish Sharma, Dr Anuradha Seth, Prof Savtanter Kour,

Prof Anju Bala, Prof Vinay Lata, Prof Anuradha Choudhary, Prof Sarita Dogra, Prof Seema Kumari and Prof Shapia Shameem Bhatti were also present on the occasion. The event was organized successfully by Dr Shubhra Jamwal, NSS Nodal Officer along with Prof Shapia Shameem Bhatti, Prof Sarita Dogra, and Prof Seema Kumari.

Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government P.G. College for Women, Gandhinagar commemorated Shaheedi Diwas by organising Declaration Contest, Slogan writing competition and Poster making competition. Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Sangita Nagari was the guest of honour and paid tributes to martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle. Prof Paramjeet Singh delivered the pledge to the faculty members and students of the college.

A lecture on "India of Bhagat Singh's Dreams" was delivered by Dr Piyush Kant Sharma, Assistant Professor GDC Akhnoor.

In the Declaration contest, Tamana bagged first position, Shehnaz Akhtar and Harneed Kour shared second position and Aparna Singh stood at the third place, while in poster making competition, Akshi bagged first position, Hitashi got second position and Amreen secured third position.

Seeya bagged first position, Rachi secured second position and Diksha stood at third place in the Slogan writing competition.

Dr Sujata Slathia, Dr Rupinder Kour and Dr Seema Arora acted as jury members for the Declaration competition. Dr Shakun Mahajan, Dr Poonam and Prof Anupama Sharma

judged the Slogan Writing and Poster making competition.

Dr Surjit Kour Raina, convener of the Literary Committee organised the event where Prof Chetna Mahajan acted as coordinator, Prof Paramjeet Singh as co-coordinator and Dr Kusum acted as Organising Secretary. The vote of thanks was given by Prof Chetna Mahajan.

The NSS unit of Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu organized series of events in order to commemorate "Shaheedi Diwas" under the banner of Azadi ka Amrut Mohotsav.

These events held under the patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

GCET Jammu celebrated the day by organizing a debate competition on the theme "It is the Cause, Not the Death, That makes a Martyr". Around 60 students from different streams witnessed the event and out of them seven students spoke on the theme of the event.

Both the events were organized by senior NSS volunteers Mandeep Singh, Mohd. Sammi, Jaanvi Sharma, Nikansh Panotra and Rohit Kumar under the guidance of Dr. Raman Gupta, Programme Officer NSS.

NSS unit of GGM Science College in

collaboration with Zoology Department observed Martyrs Day in an event held under the aegis of Principal Dr. Ravinder Tickoo and guidance of NSS PO Dr. Narinder Kumar. Dr. Tickoo apprised the volunteers and students that the Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is observed on

23 March to honour three freedom fighters namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar. NSS PO Dr. Narinder Kumar advocated that, these three heroes sacrificed their lives for the welfare/independence of our nation. He emphasised that they are the true source of inspiration for the youth of India sothat they came forward and fought with bravery. Dr. Anil Verma HoD, Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Rubena Kouser of Zoology and NSS advisory exchanged their views on this occasion. Dr. Shakha Sharma presented vote of thanks.

NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College Kanjwani/Sainik Colony Jammu organized Martyrdom Day of Shaeed Bhagat Singh , Sukhdev And Rajguru on 23rd March 2022 under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. Hans Raj. Different activities Like Documentary Film on the martyrdom of Shaeeds, Speeches on the Life history of Shaeed Bhagat Singh and his sacrifices in freedom struggle of India, Poetry and Singing of Patriotic Songs by the students were organized.

A large number of students along with Staff members of the college were presented on the occasion. The programme was organized by Dr. Manjeet Singh, NSS Programme Officer of the college.

Govt. College for Women, Bhagwati Nagar commemorates Shaheedi Diwas by organizing series of activities, under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav in collaboration with NSS unit of the college.



NSS volunteers and faculty of GDC Kanjwani during a programme.

pledge to serve our motherland selflessly and with devotion. Later the students participated in the poster making cum slogan writing event on the theme "Trimurti Balidan Diwas" in which around 50 students paid their tribute to the freedom fighters. A seminar on the topic "Lives of Unsung Heroes" was also organized through which the students were made aware about the contributions of forgotten personalities who played an important role during the struggle for freedom. The students and the staff also took out a rally around the nearby localities of the college campus and uplifted the spirit of locals by raising the patriotic slogans. The programme ended with the showcase

started with inaugural speech of the Principal Prof (Dr) T. K. Sharma wherein he explicated the importance and utility of commemorating the Martyrs Day. Prof Mohd. Younus (English) discussed threadbare the said topic and lead the staff and students in reading out the pledge. Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad (Political Science) illuminated the sentiments and patriotic feelings of Shaheed Baghat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev for the nation. Dr. Israr ul haq (PTI) organized a walkathon and a short distance run for the students in the college play ground at Moil a main campus.

Govt. Degree College Gool faculty and students taking a pledge.

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Faculty and students of Govt PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar during a programme.

The programme was inaugurated by the Principal, Prof. Minnie Sharma, who urged the students to be responsible citizens and work for the betterment of our nation.

The programme started with the pledge ceremony wherein all the students and staff of the college took



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of documentary on the "Life History of Bhagat Singh" which was attended by the natives of adopted village by NSS unit of the college.

Govt. Degree College Gool in collaboration with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Cell observed Shaheedi Divas (Martyrs Day). . The function



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