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### LG urges J&K...

of workforce to keep up with AI trends and to make J&K UT more competitive. AI Labs in the Universities will directly coordinate with local industries for integration of new discoveries and innovation of AI into businesses. The research will also focus on the current status of AI use and ways to enhance its adoption to boost productivity and profit," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Scientists, Technologists and Entrepreneurs will power the journey of Viksit Bharat. They will drive India's scientific and technological progress and provide a strong foundation to the innovation ecosystem of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the students and the faculty members to collectively work on integrated action, through a five-year plan, to use the power of new technology like AI in the development of Jammu Kashmir.

Along with path-breaking discoveries, our focus should also be on such innovations that provide solutions to the challenges of different sectors at the local level. We also have to pay special attention to the fact that technology like AI should be according to ethical standards and be free from any kind of bias, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the valuable contribution of Kashmir University in scientific innovation and education sector.

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, Emeritus Professor; Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and Prof. Anil Bharadwaj, Director Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, who joined through virtually, spoke on Astronomy for Citizen and progress of Space Science in India, respectively.

The seminar was organised by the Department of Physics, University of Kashmir; in collaboration with Vigyan Bharati, New Delhi commemorating the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' made by Sir C.V. Raman.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated Synthetic Athletic Track Surface at Kashmir University campus.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor; University of Kashmir; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner/Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Dr. Som Dev Bharadwaj, Organizing Secretary, Vigyan Bharati; scientists, faculty members and youth in large number were present.

## HIGHLIGHTS...

our lives and that's why it is critical to enable our youth to develop their AI knowledge, reskilling and upskilling of workforce to keep up with AI trends and to make J&K more competitive.

In near future, AI will be most needed by health and emergency services workers, industry managers, and social and business leaders.

It will be responsibility of all AI labs of Universities to conduct workshops and weekly training modules for them so that our entire workforce in J&K becomes AI literate and leaders from various sectors are also better equipped to make the right decision.

AI Labs in universities will directly coordinate with local industries for integration of new discoveries and innovation of AI into businesses. The research will also focus on current status of AI use and ways to enhance its adoption to boost productivity and profit. Inaugurates Synthetic Athletic Track Surface at KU campus.

## India's foundation lies...

Dhankhar, however, expressed regret over the setbacks India faced around 1,000-1,200 years ago when renowned universities like Nalanda and Takshashila-once attracting scholars from across the world-were attacked, set aflame, and vandalised.

"We have witnessed barbarity and extremities of unimaginable proportions, yet we turned around. Now, India is again on the path of growth and progress, which cannot be possible without spiritual growth," he added.

Dhankhar also noted that the world recognises India's spiritualism and civilisation because of great personalities such as Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Chaitanya, and Sri La Prabhupada.

## Trump shouts at...

his efforts to coerce Zelenskyy to agree to giving the US an interest in his country's valuable minerals and to push him toward a diplomatic resolution to the war on the American leader's terms.

Earlier in the meeting Trump said the US would continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine, but said he hoped that not too much aid would be forthcoming. "We're not looking forward to sending a lot of arms," Trump said. "We're looking forward to getting the war finished so we can do other things."

Trump suggested that Zelenskyy wasn't in a position to be demanding concessions. "You're not in a good position. You don't have the cards right now," Trump said pointing his finger toward Zelenskyy. "With us you start having cards."

He also accused Zelenskyy of being "disrespectful" to the US.

"It's going to be a very hard thing to do business like this," Trump told Zelenskyy at one point, as the two leaders talked over each other about past international support for Ukraine.

"Again, just say thank you," Vance interjected to Zelenskyy, blasting him for litigating "disagreements" in front of the press. Trump, though, suggested he was fine with the drama. "I think it's good for the American people to see what's going on," he added.

"You're not acting at all thankful," Trump said, before adding, "This is going to be great television."

The harsh words came at a pivotal and precarious moment for Ukraine. Zelenskyy had planned to try to convince the White House to provide some form of US backing for Ukraine's security against any future Russian aggression.

Zelenskyy is still expected to sign a landmark economic agreement with the US aimed at financing the reconstruction of war-damaged Ukraine, a deal that would closely tie the two countries together for years to come.

The deal, which is seen as a step toward ending the three-year war, references the importance of Ukraine's security. Earlier in the meeting, before tempers flared, Trump said the agreement would be signed soon in the East Room of the White House.

"We have something that is a very fair deal," Trump said, adding, "It is a big commitment from the United States."

He said the US wants to see the killing in the war stopped, adding that US money for Ukraine should be "put to different kinds of use like rebuilding."

Earlier, Zelenskyy called Russian President Vladimir Putin a terrorist and told Trump that Ukraine and the world need "no compromises with a killer."

"Even during the war there are rules," he said.

As Ukrainian forces hold out against slow but steady advances by Russia's larger and better-equipped army, leaders in Kyiv have pushed to ensure a potential US-brokered peace plan would include guarantees for the country's future security.

Many Ukrainians fear that a hastily negotiated peace - especially one that makes too many concessions to Russian demands - would allow Moscow to rearm and consolidate its forces for a future invasion after current hostilities cease.

## NC, Cong legislature...

The last budget session had taken place in 2018 during the PDP-BJP government in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir which was bifurcated into two Union Territories in August 2019 after abrogation of Article 370.

National Conference (NC) chief whip Mubarak Gul has convened a legislature party meeting at the official residence of Chief Minister and party's vice president Omar Abdullah on March 2.

Abdullah will be presiding over the meeting, which is all set to discuss and chalk out the party's strategy for ensuring a smooth session, a party leader said.

"Keeping in view the importance of the meeting, all the members are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting," Gul said.

Separately, Congress chief whip Nizam-ud-Din Bhat has also asked the party legislators to ensure their presence at the meeting at the party headquarters in Jammu on March 2.

## BJP holds 2...

join the workshop, having a total of 10 sessions, on the concluding day on Saturday, the leader said, adding the senior party leaders will familiarize the legislators with knitty-gritty of the legislature proceedings and raising of public issues besides the proactive approach inside and outside the assembly.

Earlier on February 23, Union Minister Jitendra Singh held a luncheon meeting with the BJP legislators here to discuss the strategy for the budget session, which is taking place for the first time after 2018 when the PDP-BJP government collapsed in the erstwhile state.

"It is the tradition of the BJP to hold such types of meetings with the elected representatives so that the vital public issues are raised forcefully in the assembly," Singh said during the meeting. The BJP had won 29 assembly seats, all from Jammu region, in the assembly elections held last year. However, one of their elected members Devender Singh Rana passed away in October; just two weeks after the formation of the National Conference led government in the Union Territory.

## 2.9-acre land...

tolerated," he said. The seized immovable properties include agriculture land measuring 15-kanal and 17-marla registered in the name of Reyaz Ahmed valued at Rs 43 lakh, land measuring 1 kanal and 3-marla in the name of Din valued at Rs 6.34 lakh, land

measuring 1 kanal and 11-marla of Ashraf with a value of Rs 8.67 lakh, land measuring 3-kanal and 4-marla in the name of Mushtaq valued at Rs 17.90 lakh, and land measuring 1 kanal and 18-marla of Farooq with a value of Rs 3.75 lakh.

The spokesman said that security forces remain committed to ensuring long-term peace, stability and development in Jammu and Kashmir while taking firm action against those trying to destabilise the region.

According to police, the five terrorists crossed over to PoK to receive arms training and carry out militant activities in India.

Intelligence reports suggested that they were attempting to sell their immovable properties in Jammu and Kashmir with the intention of using the proceeds to finance terrorist activities and lure local youth into militancy, the spokesman said.

The seizure order, issued by the sub-divisional police officer in Gool, prevents the sale, lease or any other form of transaction involving these properties without the permission of the J-K Police or other designated authorities, he said.

The seizure will cut off a potential source of terror funding that would have been used to revive Hizbul Mujahideen's influence in the region, he added.

Police said the families of the five terrorists will now face legal and financial constraints, preventing them from providing indirect support to militant activities.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has been proactively cracking down on terror funding, overground worker (OGW) networks and exfiltrated terrorists, significantly weakening the terror ecosystem in recent years, the spokesman said.

The latest action aligns with the government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, he added.

## Ex MLC Murder...

the trial court and granted him liberty to apply for bail subsequently.

The top court pointed out a stay on discharge order should be passed only after giving an opportunity to the accused of being heard.

"We direct the appellant to appear before the sessions court within four weeks from today and furnish bail effective till disposal of the revision application on such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the sessions court," it said.

The apex court went on, "If the appellant fails to comply with the above directions, he shall be forthwith taken into custody and sent to judicial custody till the disposal of the revision application."

The sessions court was ordered to impose the usual conditions.

"In addition, a condition of cooperating with the high court for early disposal of the revision application shall be also imposed. If the high court finds that the appellant is not cooperating with the early disposal of the revision application, it will be open for the high court to cancel the bail after hearing the appellant," it added.

## Drug Peddler booked...

have been registered against the accused in the district.

A special police team took him into custody under the preventive detention provisions of the NDPS Act and sent him to jail, the spokesperson added.

## Shah asks DP...

and Rohingya intruders enter the country; get their documents made and facilitate their stay here. The issue of illegal intruders is also related to national security, and it should be dealt with strictly. They should be identified and deported," he told the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Delhi's Home Minister Ashish Sood, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and other senior officials. Referring to the BJP winning the Delhi assembly polls this time after a gap of over 26 years, the Union home minister asserted that the double-engine government in Delhi will work with double speed for a developed and safe capital as expected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He made it clear that permission from Delhi Police will not be required in matters related to construction and for quick disposal of the 2020 riots cases. The Delhi government should appoint special prosecutors so that these cases can be disposed of soon, Shah said.

## J&K has additional...

are highly attractive guaranteeing the interest subvention and moratorium period that is not available anywhere else.

Dulloo enjoined upon the Bank to designate some of their best human resources to look after the progress on these schemes to improve their uptake and increase their number proportionate to the total number of applicants registered on the official portal. He also reviewed scheme-wise progress and pendency in each district and enquired from respective DCs about the reasons of poor performance, if found anywhere. He took note of the



CS Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Friday.

applications pending from last more than 100 days and directed the banks to clear the backlog without any further delay .

On the occasion, Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, informed the meeting that the Department targets coverage of 13 lakh farmers under KCC scheme which currently hovers at around 10.82 lakh active customers. MD, HADP, Rahul Yadav, informed the meeting about other measures being taken by the Department to improve the uptake of these schemes by the farmers. He also threw light on the overall progress of these schemes over the past few months.

The MD also enumerated certain measures including launching of IT tools like credit scheme advisor; DPR generating portal and Grievance redressal portal with banks for real time registration and tracking of credit related grievances by the banks and administration on the directions of the Chief Secretary.

## Rains across Jammu...

shed adjoining a construction site and their lives were in danger due to the increase in the water level following incessant rains.

A driver of a dumper was also rescued by police leb by Jammu South Ajay Sharma and SDRP personnel in a joint operation in Niki Tawi area in Jammu this morning.

The driver Mohan Lal, a resident of Gole-Gujral, was rescued in a daring effort after his dumper got submerged in river Tawi around 5.40 am, the officials said.

They said no fresh traffic was allowed on Jammu-Srinagar national highway owing to accumulation of snow between Ramsoo and Qazigund, shooting of stones, landslides and mudslides at various places between Nashri and Banihal.

The traffic on the highway was suspended around 7 pm on Thursday, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, the officials said.

The traffic on Batote-Doda road was also closed due to landslides at Ragi Nallah, while several other roads, including Bhaderwah-Chamba, Mughal road and Sinthan road also remained closed due to heavy snowfall in the higher reaches, the officials said.

Meanwhile, overnight snowfall affected rail, air and road connectivity as most parts of Kashmir were draped in a layer of white, officials said.

Landslides, mudslides and shooting stones were reported along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, they said.

While the plains were lashed with rains, the higher reaches of the valley, including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam, received moderate to heavy snowfall. Srinagar; meanwhile, saw light snowfall.

The weather is likely to improve from Friday afternoon, according to the weather office.

The inclement weather affected traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, and disrupted rail connectivity, as well as flight operations at the Srinagar airport here.

The Srinagar-Jammu national highway was blocked due to snow accumulation between Ramsoo and Qazigund, while shooting stones, landslides, and mudslides occurred at many places along the arterial road -- which is the only all-weather road between the valley and the rest of the country, officials said.

Several other roads, including the Srinagar-Leh highway, SSG Road, and Mughal Road -- the alternate road link between Kashmir and Jammu -- were also closed.

All morning flights were delayed due to the weather; the officials said. Flight operations resumed after 11 am after the weather improved, they said.

Train services on the Budgam-Baramulla section were affected due to accumulation of heavy snow accumulation along the tracks.

## Winter vacation extended...

division were to be observed from December 10 to February 28.

For the Classes 5 to 12, the winter vacation were from December 16 to February 28. The schools were scheduled to reopen on March 1.

However, in the wake of the inclement weather and forecast of more spells of wet weather till March 3, the government on Friday extended the vacations till March 6.

Overnight snowfall in Kashmir affected rail, air and road connectivity on Friday. Landslides, mudslides and shooting stones were reported along the Srinagar-Jammu

national highway, according to officials. While the plains were lashed with rains, the higher reaches of the valley, including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam, received moderate to heavy snowfall. Srinagar; meanwhile, saw light snowfall.

## Traffic Police Rural...

Slow down the vehicle speed to match the road conditions and use heavy gear while driving uphill and downhill; Switch to a low beam to reduce glare from rain and fog; Increase your vehicle distance while in traffic alignment on the road during bad weather conditions; Avoid sudden acceleration as it can lead to loss of control or skidding; Be aware of vulnerable road users and give them plenty of space; If you can't see the road surface, it's not safe to drive through; Ensure your vehicle's tyres, brakes and windshield wipers are in good working order; Avoid driving through flooded/muddy/hilly areas and keep a safe distance from Pedestrians and cyclists; Take extreme care while driving on the under construction NHWs and other roads. Avoid snowbound hilly areas. Include items like a flashlight, first aid kit, and snacks in case you become stranded.

People have been further advised to undertake journey only after confirming the status of the road from Traffic control units with Helpline numbers ; Traffic Police Control Room Jammu:- (0191-2459048,0191-2740550, 9419147732,103); Traffic Police Rural Jammu ( 9484321021); Traffic Helpline Samba-Kathua (8899041447), Traffic Helpline Rajouri-Poonch (9419324490).

Digital policing: J&K...

With regard to ZERO FIR, so far more than 100 such FIRs have been registered indifferent Police Stations of UT of J&K. Out of these 83 FIRs were transferred to different police stations outside J&K.

As the general public is well aware about the cyber crime trends, checks and balances have been introduced at various levels, so that the facility of eFIR etc. provision cannot be misused by any miscreant.

## Court rejects bail of Bank Manger in multi-crore loan scam

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Haq Nawaz Zargar rejected the bail application of Jatinder Singh Branch Manager who was arrested by the Crime Branch in multicrore loan scam.

Special Judge Haq Nawaz Zargar, after hearing APP Mohd Amir-al-Mansoor for the Crime Branch, observed that if the applicant is released on bail now, it is likely to prejudice the investigation which is being carried out. It is not possible for the court to monitor the sources of communication of the accused and to control his conversations with other co-accused particularly Mohd. Safer who is absconding, so as to prevent the tampering with the evidence.

The huge trail of money and its recovery is yet to be established. Some more arrest are likely to be made in future as investigating agency had already brought in the notice of this court that the sanction under section 17-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act had already been obtained viz-a-viz other bank employees also who had served In the concerned branches.

Obviously, exercising the power of discretion for grant of bail in favour of the accused/applicant at this stage would prejudice the Investigation, thereby it not only/ makes such white collared criminals emboldened but rendered this Investigation a futile exercise. Since, the investigation is going on to bring to surface the larger conspiracy and the Involvement of some more bank officials is likely to surface in coming days and In such circumstances, the present accused do not deserve the concession of bail. Court do not find any merit in the contention of the learned counsel for the applicant that he is not in a position to influence the witnesses.

The involvement of the other accused/ bank employees and also the beneficiaries of the transactions is being examined. The accused, If released on bail at this stage, can surely tip off his associates and the beneficiaries who were allegedly In contact with him and try to influence them.

While rejecting bail application, Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Haq Nawaz Zargar observed that the banking system in India has its great significance particularly for the middle and lower strata of the society. The deposits with the bank are the trust which comes out of the hard earned money from the pockets of the common man.

The bank officials owe a divine duty to uphold that trust and invest the same adequately and properly, so that the depositors will get their due in time. If the banking officials started eating the very vital of the deposits, than its not possible to run the economy of the state smoothly.

The corrupt approach on ' behalf of the bank officials can't be tolerated at any stage, as it is a direct threat to the economy of the country, which demands a zero tolerance approach to such culprits.

The allegations point towards a systematic siphoning off of bank money by the accused with connivance of other accused persons. The trust which is reposed by the bank on its employee particularly accused that he would take care of the money of the bank and of its depositors stands breached. No doubt, the court has to balance between the individual liberty and the societal interest, but showing leniency in such matters by the courts amounts to doing disservice to the society and public interest in my opinion would not be served.

Before parting with this application in hand, Court would like to bring it to the notice of IGP Crime UT of J and K, that In economic offences/seams usually lengthy Investigations is a normal affair and is not only a test of investigating prowess but also his/her test of patience. So proper care must be taken while constituting a SIT and its member or appointing an IO.

## Court seeks ATR from SHO Billawar in Makhan Din's Custodial Torture

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, the Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua Amandeep Kour has directed SHO, Police Station Billawar to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) in two complaints seeking registration of FIR in the custodial torture of Makhan Din, son of Mohd Mureed, resident of Village Bhatodi, Tehsil Billawar, District Kathua.

One complaint has been filed by Father of the deceased Makhan Din (Mohd Mureed) and widow of Makhan Din namely Juna Begum and second complaint has been filed by Advocates Mohd Anwar Chowdhary and Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed. Both complaints have been filed through Advocate Appu Singh Salathia.

When these two complaints came up for hearing before Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua Amandeep Kour, Advocate Appu Singh Salathia appearing for the complainants submitted that despite approaching SHO, Police Station Billawar and SSP, Kathua, the FIR into the custodial torture of Makhan Din was not registered even though prima facie cognizable offences are made out against the accused and this compelled the complainants to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court under Section 175(3) BNSS, 2023.

Advocate Appu Singh Salathia submitted that 26 years old tribal boy-Makhan Din alongwith his father Mohd Mureed were subjected to third degree torture while they were in custody of Billawar Police. She further submitted that on February 4th, 2025 two police officials namely Mohd Shafi and Lucky on the directions of their senior officers throughout the night tortured Makhan Din and his father Mohd Mureed in order to compel them to make statements for having links with the militants/subversive activities.

During the course of hearing, Advocate Appu Singh Salathia referred celebrated judgement of Supreme court regarding Custodial Torture/police excesses titled DK Basu V/s State of West Bengal and Ors. wherein the Apex Court has laid down more than ten guidelines to be followed by the police officers while making arrest or custodial interrogation.

Advocate Appu Singh Salathia further submitted that recently a Bench of the Apex Court comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsan-Ud-Din Amanullah expressed displeasure with the conduct of the Investigative Agencies and the police for not adhering to the constitutional and statutory safeguards while arresting and taking the accused into custody.

The said Bench further observed, "\_It is sad that even today, this court is forced to restate the principles and directions in DK Basu's case."\_ Advocate Appu Singh Salathia also referred to the Constitutional Bench Judgement titled Lalita Kumari V/s State of UP and Ors. wherein the Five Judge-Bench of the Apex Court ruled that when a complaint discloses commission of a cognizable offence, the FIR has to be mandatorily registered and in the present case, the Billawar Police has violated the Judgement of the Supreme Court with impunity.

Advocate Appu Singh Salathia further submitted that the video deposition of Makhan Din was sufficient for the registration of the FIR but despite his dying declaration, the Billawar Police miserably failed to register the case and under these circumstances the present two complaints have been filed.

She further prayed before the Court that this is a fit case for issuing directions to the Billawar Police to register FIR in the matter as prima facie commission of cognizable offences are made out.

After considering the detailed arguments of Advocate Appu Singh Salathia, the Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua Amandeep Kour directed SHO, Police Station, Billawar to file Action Taken Report in the matter before the next date of hearing i.e. March 4th, 2025.