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CBI should act...

people keep suffering. Those who benefitted from corruption for decades have created an ecosystem that attacks probe agencies. But the agencies should not be deterred by stories about the power of the corrupt and their ecosystem to tarnish them, Modi said.

"These people will keep distracting you, but you have to focus on your work. No corrupt person should be spared. There should be no laxity in our efforts. This is the wish of the country, this is the wish of the people of the country. The country, law and constitution are with you," the prime minister said.

"Today there is no dearth of political will to take action against corruption in the country. You should not hesitate to take action (against the corrupt), however powerful...", he told the gathering of CBI officers and personnel.

The CBI was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 1, 1963.

Referring to international transactions and the movement of people, goods and services on a large scale, even outside geographical boundaries, Modi said India's economic power is growing while those who create obstacles are also rising.

He warned that attacks on India's social fabric, its unity and brotherhood, and its economic interests and institutions would also increase.

"Corruption money will be spent on this," the prime minister said, stressing the need to understand and study the multinational nature of crime and corruption.

Modi said India got a legacy of corruption at the time of Independence and lamented the fact that some people kept nourishing this malady instead of removing it.

While a discussion on trillion dollars refers to a strong economy these days, a decade ago, when the CBI celebrated its golden jubilee, such figures were used to describe scams in the country, he said.

"There was a competition underway on who will set a new record of corruption," he said. The seams and the prevailing sense of impunity led to the destruction of the system, and an atmosphere of policy paralysis brought development to a standstill.

He said Internet banking and UPI stand in stark contrast to the earlier "phone banking" malaise, where loans worth thousands of crores of rupees were sanctioned on the basis of phone calls from influential people.

The beneficiaries scooted away with the public money, the prime minister said. He said the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act has so far enabled the confiscation of Rs 20,000 crore worth of properties of fugitive offenders.

Modi said the corrupt would even go to the extent of looting the aid given to beneficiaries of government schemes, be it rations, homes, scholarships or pensions, and the original beneficiary would feel conned every time.

Modi said the beneficiaries of government schemes are now getting their full entitlement due to the trinity of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile, and more than eight crore fake beneficiaries have been removed from the system.

"Due to DBT (direct benefit transfer), about Rs 2.25 lakh crore has been saved from falling into wrong hands," he said.

The prime minister said it was the resolve of his government after assuming office in 2014 to launch a crackdown on corruption and benami properties, and it started to act against these evils on mission mode.

The prime minister said even today when a case remains unsolved, there are demands for it to be handed over to the CBI.

The CBI has given faith to people through its work and techniques, he said.

"CBI's name is on everyone's lips. It is like a brand for truth and justice. Even at the panchayat level, if some major crime happens, people want it to be referred to the CBI," he said.

Modi said wherever there is corruption, the youth don't get equal opportunities, and just one special eco-system gets emboldened.

Terming corruption the biggest enemy of merit, he said corruption gives encouragement to nepotism and dynastic rule.

When nepotism and dynastic rule increase, the country's strength gets affected, and when the country's strength gets weakened, it hampers development, he said.

The prime minister conferred medals on the recipients of the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Gold Medal for Best Investigating Officers of the CBI during the programme. He also virtually inaugurated the newly constructed office complexes of CBI in Shillong, Pune and Nagpur, released a postage stamp and commemorative coin, and launched the Twitter handle of the CBI.

Among those present were Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and CBI Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal. The bureau has evolved from an agency combating corruption to a multi-disciplinary investigative and prosecuting organisation of international repute, Jaiswal said.

J&K LG Manoj...

Department (all Ex-officio Directors) and Director General of Prisons, J&K, (HoPD), Ex-officio Managing Director:

Dr Adil Bashir, Asst Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir and Pallavi Singh, Project Coordinator J&K SPYM, Jammu will be its Members.

J&K: CAG calls...

UCs should be furnished within 18 months from the date of receipt of grant or before applying for a further grant on the same subject whichever is earlier:

The report said Detailed Countersigned Contingent (DCC) bills in respect of Rs 5,830.41 crore drawn on 2,154 number of AC bills up to 30 October 2019 and DCC bills for Rs 11,448.03 crore drawn on 1,139 AC bills post reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir are outstanding ending 31 March 2022.

"Advances drawn through Abstract Contingent Bills and their detailed countersigned bills not submitted increased the possibility of wastage/ misappropriation/ malfeasance," the CAG said.

In respect of eight autonomous bodies which were to render annual accounts to CAG, the report said 37 numbers of accounts were not rendered for the period ranging between one to 12 years.

The CAG said Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has submitted the accounts for audit for period up to 2008-09, accounts for 12 years are pending, while SKUAST, Kashmir, has not submitted its accounts for audit for the last 11 years.

"Non-submission/delay in submission of accounts by these Bodies receiving substantial funding from the budget is a serious financial irregularity persisting for years. Despite taking up the issue of preparation and submission of accounts to this office with the Government, the accounts are in arrears," it said.

It said the delay or arrears in finalisation of accounts carries the risk of financial irregularities going undetected and entails possibility of fraud and mis-appropriation.

"This has also deprived the Legislature/Government the opportunity to get feed-

back on their activities and financial performance. The Government may take up the matter with the bodies for timely preparation and submission of accounts for presentation to the UT Legislature," it said.

Besides CAMPA and SKUAST Kashmir, the accounts of JK Employee provident funds organization, J&K Housing Board, J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), J&K Building and other construction workers welfare board and State Legal Service Authority are pending for years together.

In its recommendation, the CAG sought timely submission of UCs by the department in respect of grants released for specific purpose and necessary steps to ensure adjustment of the advances drawn on the AC bills within the stipulated period as required under the extant rules.

"The issue of timely preparation and submission of accounts may be taken with respective autonomous bodies," it said.

Police recovers arms..

early on Monday near the railway line in Rakh Barotiya -- contained, among others, three China-made pistols and grenades, they said.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Samba) Surinder Choudhary told reporters, "We received information about a suspected package (lying) in the fields of Rakh Barotiya in the Vijaypur belt. We immediately rushed police, bomb disposal squad and FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) teams to the spot.

"It was first ascertained if the package contained an IED (Improvised Explosive Device)."

Among the weapons recovered from the package were three China-made pistols, six magazines, 48 rounds and four hand grenades, the official said.

According to past modus operandi, the police suspect that the package was dropped by a drone from across the border.

Choudhary said, "...It looks like the weapons consignment has been dropped by drone (from across the International Border).

"...it had a box and a long string of plastic measuring 50 metres It looks like (air) dropping." The senior police official added that the exact detail can be ascertained only after an investigation.

Illegal possession and...

it to retain excess land. After registration of the case investigation was done, the evidence was collected the enquiry report which was given by the enquiry committee after the order of enquiry was passed, was also collected and it was found that supplementary trust deed dated April 16, 2008 and December 9, 2017 were registered with family members of accused as its members.

It was further revealed during investigation that the said trust and the family members of husband of accused had got land transferred in his favour on his name and through attorney comprising of three sale deeds dated May 8, 2006 for total 79 Kanals 1 Marla, gift deed executed on May 8, 2006, October 25, 2007 and October 26, 2007 with respect to 79 Kanals 1 Marlas, 12 Kanals 2 Marlas, 40 Kanals 9 Marlas total 131 Kanals 11 Marlas, sale deeds dated March 6, 2010, May 13, 2010, January 5, 2011, January 7, 2011, January 7, 2011, for 48 Kanals 6 Marlas , 35 Kanals through husband of accused as attorney Sale deed dated September 15, 2017 in favour of Divya Suraj Partap Singh whereby total land of 328 Kanals 19 Marlas was acquired by R B Education Trust in violation of section 14 of Agrarian Reform Act providing ceiling limit of 100 Kanals.

The investigation revealed the then Patwari Ravinder Singh in conspiracy and in pursuance of the conspiracy with accused by abusing his official position without mentioning the details facilitated the acquisition of land by accused in favour of R B Trust with dishonest intention and falsely mentioning that there was no effect on the provisions of law under the aforesaid Acts. The investigation was conducted and the offences aforementioned were found to have been committed by the accused on the basis of investigation. It was further revealed that since a wrong affidavit has been filed before the High Court so appropriate proceedings for seeking sanction for prosecution of the accused were also instituted for action under 195 Cr PC.

Special Judge CBI R K wattal after hearing both the sides observed that in absence of any order under section 14 of Agrarian Reforms Act it cannot be said that the person who is guilty of holding the land in excess of the ceiling area has committed the offence under ordinary penal or special provisions. Moreover, a distinction has to be made between the voluntary acquisition of land and the involuntary occupation of the same as regards the unit to fix the liability under law for the trust or its functionaries. Court observed that the matter requires further probe at par with the investigation which has already been ordered against the officers who have allegedly filed false affidavit before the High Court and also till the final decision is made by the Collector the competent officer having jurisdiction to pass order under section 14 of Agrarian Reforms Act 1978. "Until that final order is passed the statements of the witnesses recorded or the recommendatory reports of revenue committees and agrarian agencies concerned the material which are short of finality of the order formally declaring the accused liable for violation of section 14 of Agrarian Reforms Act and which are yet to fructify in final order of collector ACR the authority competent under law to pass such order, will legally be deemed to have been not warranting conviction, a criteria for limited purpose of sifting the evidence to proceed against the accused which can be considered and looked into on completion of further investigation/ enquiry. This aspect of the case is shown to have been either overlooked or completely ignored warranting re-investigation on all the aspects as stated above and granted four months time for re-investigation under the supervision of SP CBI concerned," the Court observed.

Famous Basohli painting...

Sulai honey (Ramban), Anardana (Ramban) and Ladakh wood carving (Ladakh) were the other products pitched for the GI-tagging.

These products from Jammu and Kashmir have been included among 33 others, highest-ever in a single year, cleared for GI-tagging on March 31.

"Basohli painting of Kathua is the first independent GI tagged product from Jammu region," the spokesman said.

ACB nabs Gram...

demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 7,000," said official, adding that accused was arrested on spot after completing necessary legal formalities and further investigation is going on.

India has upheld...

Sundarji Memorial Lecture organised by the Indian Army in memory of one of India's foremost military thinkers.

The event was attended by serving and retired officers of the three services.

The lecture remembered Gen K Sundarji, the 13th Chief of the Army Staff, who is also fondly called as the "father of the mechanised infantry regiment".

Gen Sundarji was the Chief of Army Staff from February 1, 1986 to May 31, 1988. He passed away on February 8, 1999.

"In his keynote address, Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar...said that the nation has upheld its global image as an emerging leader by taking responsible roles at various occasions especially during pandemic; and the Indian Army stands fully committed and prepared to fulfil the Nation's expectations wherever possible," the Army said in a release. India's former foreign secretary Shyam Saran also spoke at the event.

Union Secretary hails...

that there are 24.80 lakh ration card holders in J&K covering a population 96.74 lakh beneficiaries with cent percent Aadhaar Seeding.

He said the Aadhaar Seeding has facilitated removal of more than a million bogus beneficiaries. He said the Public Distribution System in J&K is built around a strong and widespread network of 6735 ration shops including 2104 govt shops and 4631 private outlets. He said ePoS devices have been installed in all the sale outlets across J&K and the distribution process is fully automated with Aadhaar authentication rate of 93.85% in transactions. He said 6393 of PoS machines are working in an online mode.

Regarding One Nation-One Ration Card (ONORC), Zubair said that till last month 39,125 ONORC transactions were made, taking J&K to 10th position in the country. He said also during this period 13,50,513 portability (Inter-District) transactions were made.

Zubair said that 8,94,891.33 MTs of food-grains were distributed in 7 Phases spanning April 2020 to December 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY, besides the distribution made under NFSA and Non-NFSA to eligible beneficiaries.

Commissioner Secretary said various initiatives have been taken to transform FPSs. These include signing of MoU between the Department of FCS&CA, J&K and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd to leverage ePoS devices to deliver CSC services and a hike in FPS Commission has also been ordered.

He said proper implementation of Supply Chain Management has remained the area of focus and the Department has been able to achieve implementation of 98% of SCM, despite difficult terrains, internet issues, peculiar situation, lack of requisite IT infrastructure & electricity issues.

Commissioner Secretary said that J&K has been following all the reforms based on technology interventions, to make the system transparent, dependable and credible.

Earlier at the beginning of his 2-day visit to J&K, the Union Secretary visited Fair Price Shop at Panchayat Dhok Wazirian in tehsil Nagrota on 2nd April, 2023. He was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Director, FCS&CA Jammu, General Manager, FCI and other officials of the Department.

During the visit to PFS, Union Secretary assessed the various technological interventions introduced by the Department in PDS in order to bring transparency in the system and for enhanced beneficiary experience.

Union Secretary carefully checked the method of ration distribution to beneficiaries through Aadhar based Point of Sale (PoS) machines. He interacted with the beneficiaries in detail and also witnessed one person hailing from Bihar receiving ration under 'One Nation One Ration Card' Scheme from the Fair Price Shop during the visit.

He also took stock of the various parameters governing Fair Price Shop like infrastructure, quality of foodgrains, rate and scale of food grains, grievance redressal mechanism, and awareness among the beneficiaries about the schemes of the Department.

Union Secretary appreciated the efforts made by the department in transformation of FPS at ground level. He emphasized on significantly enhancing the viability of FPS.

Man held for...

heated argument with his wife in the morning. After returning from work in the evening, he took a kitchen knife with the intention of committing suicide," the officer said.

While the accused was leaving the house on the pretext of getting a punctured tyre fixed, his daughter Uzma asked him for Rs 5.

"Khatana gave her a Rs 10 currency note. His wife followed him up to the courtyard. However, Uzma followed her father up to the main road," the officer said.

The other members of the family, including the girl's mother, presumed that Uzma had gone with her father.

"Khatana took Uzma in his vehicle and drove around for more than an hour, waiting for the roads to get deserted so that he can kill himself.

"As people left for Taraweel, he drove his vehicle to Her-Khurhama, near a transformer, where he halted the vehicle. There, out of mental anguish due to domestic issues with his wife, he suffocated Uzma for around two to three minutes, as a result of which the girl died on the spot," the officer said.

The accused then drove to his house and carried his daughter's body to a spot next to the firewood shed of his uncle's house.

"He placed the body in the shed in the supine position (chest facing upwards) and then, slit her throat with the knife, so that the blame falls on the occupants of the adjacent houses," the officer said.

The accused then returned home, where the other family members raised a hue and cry when they saw Uzma was not with him.

Subsequently, the accused, along with a few others, went to the Khurhama police post in his vehicle to get a missing report lodged for Uzma.

Rahul gets bail...

in a luxury bus along with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior leaders. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and several other party leaders were present in Surat.

The case was filed against Rahul Gandhi on a complaint by Purnesh Modi for the 52-year-old Congress leader's remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?"

The disqualified MP made the comment on "Modi surname" while addressing a rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019, during campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress leader, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019, was convicted on March 23 by the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate H H Varma and sentenced to two years in jail.

The magistrate's court had granted him bail the same day and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court. A day after his conviction and sentence, he was disqualified as a member of the Lok Sabha.

No proposal for...

leaving batch of 2020, the JEE (Main) examination was conducted two times in 2020, four times in 2021 and two times in 2022 giving them sufficient opportunities to take the JEE(Main) examination," said Sarkar.

"Accordingly, there is no proposal under consideration for one-time relaxation in eligibility criteria of JEE (Main) 2023," the minister added.

Moreover, Police booked notorious drug smugglers namely Sageer Ahmad Mir alias Sata son of Abdul Rasheed Mir resident of Janwarpora Sopore, Bilal Ahmad Bhat alias Bilal son of Ghulam Mohd Bhat resident of Durhama Wagora & Manzoor Ahmad Sada alias Manzoor Auto son of Mohammad Subhan Sada resident of Sada Mohalla Pattan under PIT NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority. The booked drug peddlers were detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Bhalwal Jail Jammu. Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against these drug peddlers, involved in promoting drug trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Pattan, Kreeri Wagora and other areas of Baramulla.

19 rooms, 6 shops gutted in mysterious fire

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BHADARWAH: Property worth lakhs was reduced to ashes in devastating fire in which 19 rooms of a rented building and 6 shops were gutted in Bhalla area of Bhadarwah in Doda on Monday afternoon. According to reports, 19 rooms of a rented accommodation along with 6 shops came under mysterious blaze in main market of Bhalla, 15 Km from Bhadarwah. The fire, which started in afternoon at 1:45 PM, destroyed 19 rooms of a building along with 6 shops in the main market.

Soon after getting information, police team rushed to the spot and with help of locals doused the flames. No injury or casualty has been reported in the incident, while the exact loss has not been ascertained yet. While confirming the incident, SDPO Bhadarwah Wasim Mehmood, who was personally leading operation, said, "Immediately after receiving information, Police team along with Fire tenders and locals reached the spot and started dousing the flames, which was spreading rapidly as building and shops were located in densely populated market. As of now, fire has been completely extinguished and we are assessing the losses." According to reports, gutted building belong to one Ghulam Qadir, son of Abdul Rehman Mir, resident of Bachla Bhalla, which was taken on rent by a businessman Charan Dass from last several years.



CRIME REPORT

Narco smuggler nabbed with 70 gm heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Monday nabbed a narco smuggler and recovered 70 gm heroin from his possession.

As per the details, a team of Police Post Sarwal led by SDPO West Vikram Singh assisted by SHO Bakshi Nagar Inspr Vishal Shoor and Incharge Police Post Sarwal PSI Baljeet Singh Parihar while on Naka duty at Top Sherkhaniya rounded up a suspect on a vehicle (JK12A5732). During search, 70 gm heroin was recovered from his possession. The accused, identified as Arshad Mahmood alias Vicky, son of Khurshid Ahmad, resident of Plera Tehsil Mandi, at present Kot Bhalwal Jammu was arrested and case under relevant sections of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Bakshi Nagar.



4 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by police in which teams of Police Station Pallanwala, Police Posts Canal, Sidhra and Rehari acted stringently on the specific inputs, raided locations in their respective areas and seized 4 vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicles included a tractor trolley bearing chassis No NHN36300ZMJ570572 seized by Pallanwala Police; a tipper (JK02CJ-0224) seized by Canal Police; a tipper

(JK02DB-3147) seized by Sidhra police and a tractor-trolley (JK02CU5863) seized by Rehari police. The recoveries were made by Incharge Police Posts Pallanwala PSI Vijay Kumar, Canal-PSI Mohd Younis Khanday, Sidhra-PSI Arun Kumar and Rehari-PSI Anil Kumar in their respective jurisdictions.

Missing girl traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police has traced a missing girl and reunited her with family. As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Akhnoor regarding missing of a girl after which missing report was registered on December 15, 2022 and investigation started. A team of Police Station Akhnoor led by SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Lal assisted by SHO Akhnoor Inspr Harjeet Singh, after putting in strenuous efforts, traced the missing girl. Subsequently, family of missing girl was informed and she was handed over to family members after completing all the legal formalities.

5 drug peddlers arrested, contraband recovered; 4 booked under PIT NDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from the society, police on Monday arrested 5 drug peddlers in separate actions besides, booking 4 drug peddlers under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla. A party of Police Station Kreeri at a checkpoint established at Saloosa Kreeri arrested a drug peddler identified as Adil Assadullah, son of Assadullah Mir resident of Kawehk Kreeri. During search, 50 gm Charas was recovered from his possession.

In another checkpoint established at Hamrey Pattan, a party of Police Post Palhallan arrested a drug peddler identified as Nazir Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Maqbool Dar resident of Naidikhai Sumbal. During checking, officers recovered 500 gm Charas from his possession. Another party of Police Post Palhallan at a checkpoint near TCP Hyderbeigh arrested 2 drug peddlers and recovered 106 gm Charas from their possession. They were identified as Mohd Yaqoob Mir son of Abdul Aziz Mir resident of Nilah Palpora & Liyaqat Gaffar Rather son of Abdul Gaffar Rather resident of Pakipora. Similarly, a party of Police Post Kungamdara at a checkpoint established at Goom Ahmadpora Pattan arrested a drug peddler identified as Maroof Bashir Dar son of Bashir Ahmad Dar resident of Bardrab Beerwah Budgam. During checking, 50 gm Charas was recovered from his possession. Subsequently, cases under relevant sections of law were registered and all the drug peddlers were shifted to respective police stations where they remained in custody.