

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

J&K saw unprecedented...

matters which has positively impacted every resident irrespective of caste, creed or religion".

It said bandhs and stone pelting (together), engineered, financed and forced by the separatist-terrorist networks, had tremendous negative ripple effects on economy and the society as a whole.

"It is submitted that the defining characteristic of the security situation in the region, which has a direct bearing on the day-to-day life of common citizens is 'street violence' which was a methodical and regular phenomenon. The street violence, engineered and orchestrated by terrorists and secessionist networks has now become thing of the past. The organized stone pelting incidents connected with terrorism-separatist agenda, which were as high as 1,767 in the year 2018 has come down to zero in the year 2023 till date," the Centre said in its 20-page affidavit.

It added that bandhs' and stone pelting had resulted in closure of schools, colleges and universities, trade, industries and businesses on a regular basis intermittently, leading to severe loss of income especially of the poor and those who worked in unorganized sectors.

"In the year 2018, there were 52 incidents of organized Bandh/Hartal", which have come down to zero in the year 2023 till date. In addition, resolute anti-terror actions have resulted in dismantling of the terror eco-system which is reflected in a significant drop in terrorist recruitment from 199 in the year 2018 to 12 in the year 2023 till date."

The Centre said work on transit accommodation for Kashmiri Pandits for their safe return to the valley is in the advanced stage and is expected to be majorly completed in the next one year.

Highlighting numerous schemes launched by the Centre for the development of the entire region, the government said life has returned to normalcy in the region after over three decades of turmoil.

"It is submitted that schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and other public institutions are functioning efficiently without any strikes or any kind of disturbances during the last three years. The earlier practice of daily hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now," it added.

Emphasising that certain sections of the society, including displaced persons from Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and children of women married outside J&K, were earlier deprived of their basic rights prior to the August 5, 2019 decision, the government said all the residents of the region are enjoying all rights which are available to citizens in other parts of the country. It said with the constitutional changes and enactments of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, seats have been reserved for the persons belonging to Scheduled Tribe, which has resulted in grant of reservation in Legislature to them similar to the reservation available to such community in Legislative Assemblies of other States/Union territories in the country.

"It is submitted that with the improved security scenario, the Union territory has also witnessed highest ever footfall of tourists viz. 1.88 crore tourists visited Jammu & Kashmir only during January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 which is significantly contributing to the growth of the economy and has a direct impact on the income of common man", the Centre highlighted.

Amit Shah appreciates...

honesty that leave an indelible mark on the lives we touch. ASI Darshan Kumar and HC Satpal of the J&K Police proved this saying correct. They found a bag that contained ₹80000, a mobile phone, and Yatra documents. They traced out its owner; a pilgrim, and handed it over to her. I appreciate them for being an example of integrity," Shah said on Twitter. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine located at a height of 3,888 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas started on July 1 and is scheduled to conclude on August 31. The pilgrims travel through two routes – Baltal and Pahalgam – in Jammu and Kashmir. Last year; 3.45 lakh people visited the cave shrine and the figure could go up to five lakh this time, sources said.

Jammu Bar to...

General Secretary JKHCBAJ. He added, "The JKHCBA Jammu has decided to suspend work in High Court, District courts, Tribunals, Commissions, all Revenue Courts and Forums on the July 11, 2023 (Tuesday) as a mark of respect to the departed soul." The office-bearers join the members of the Association in praying for eternal peace to the divine soul and for courage to the family to bear this immense loss.

Army commander reviews....

the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said. The soldier suffered injuries when the landmine got activated after he accidentally stepped over it during patrolling in a forward village in Kerni sector late Sunday night, the officials said. They said the injured was shifted to a military hospital and his condition was stated to be 'stable'. As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such types of accidents, the officials said.

Amarnath Yatra pilgrims...

if it means waiting for days. The yatra has been suspended due to extensive damage caused to a section of the Jammu-Srinagar Highway in Ramban, with more than 7,000 stranded pilgrims in Jammu, primarily at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, and an additional 5,000 stranded at the Chandkerot base camp in Ramban district.

Authorities said incessant rains on Saturday and Sunday caused unprecedented damage to the highway, especially a stretch in Ramban district, forcing its closure.

"Our spirits are high. We are willing to wait for ten more days if needed, but we refuse to return home without performing darshan of the ice-lingam of Lord Shiva at Amarnath," said Pramodh Gupta, a devotee from Punjab told PTI here.

Gupta added that despite facing challenges with accommodation and other facilities, their group of 29 is eagerly waiting for the administration's approval to resume their journey to Kashmir. Shobha Devi from Meerut echoed similar sentiments and expressed dissatisfaction with the facilities due to the heavy influx of pilgrims from outside the country. "We are facing various problems with accommodation. There is water shortage here and the administration should address the issue," she said.

However, Shobha added that she and her group would only return home after completing their pilgrimage. "We will leave only after completing the yatra to Amarnath. Barfani Baba will help us fulfill our wish," she affirmed.

"Weather conditions will not deter us from going to Amarnath. We pray to Lord Shiva to improve the weather so that we can start the yatra and have Bholey Baba's darshan," said Meenakshi Verma, a devotee from Punjab.

Sumita Saini from Punjab's Jalandhar, who has been stranded in Jammu for the past five days, said, "We are waiting for the weather to clear up and the highway to reopen. We are optimistic about leaving for Amarnath."

There is a huge rush for accommodation in Jammu as most of 33 lodging places and the base camp is full to its capacity. Even the parking area of Jammu base camp is full with buses carrying pilgrims who are cooking food there. Around 200 to 300 sadhus are also camping at the base camp's Ram temple for the past one week.

JKLF-Hurriyat revival...

and Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat and Shabir Ahmad Dar of Sopore from Baramulla district, and Sohail Ahmad Mir of Peerbagh in Budgam district. Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat is the son of former Hurriyat Conference chairman Abdul Gani Bhat.

JKBOSE declares Class...

Calendar. He also congratulated all the stakeholders and expressed gratitude to the entire divisional and district level administrative machinery, National Informatics Centre, India Posts, whole team of the officers and officials of JKBOSE and all other people who have directly or indirectly contributed towards the success of this vision of government by which all the students of two UTs were brought together in the same academic session and their result has been declared successfully.

The Chairman said, "It takes a lot of effort to implement a new policy and Uniform Academic Calendar2022-23 is no exception. The vastness, climatic and topographical challenges posed for the conduct of examination in both the UTs was an uphill task but with the active cooperation of every stakeholder, the academic session 2022-23 has successfully concluded".

The JKBOSE spokesman further said that re-appear/fail students are informed that in terms of Govt. Order no 119-Edu of 2017 dated March 15, 2017 (restructuring of examination system) read with BOSE Notification No F(Acad-C) Adms/XI-XII/18 dated September 24, 2018 along with another notification No. F(JSE/RI/Prov/12th)22 dated August 3, 2022, they can continue their studies in Class XII on provisional basis till the result of their Biannual examination 2023 is declared.

In order to facilitate the access of students to the result gazette, the JKBOSE has made adequate arrangements through various media. The result is available online on the official website of JKBOSE www.jkbose.nic.in. The candidates can also avail SMS facility by sending the text message to 5676750 by typing jkbose10 followed by a space and Roll No. E.g., " jkbose11 Roll No.". Those who don't have access to Mobile Phones or internet can get their results from their nearest JKBOSE office where the soft copies of result gazettes have been provided.

In case of any query regarding this result, the students have been advised to avoid visiting the JKBOSE offices at Jammu/Srinagar physically. However, they can email their

query at jssecrecy_jd@jkbose.co.in (for Jammu Division) and jssecrecy_kd@jkbose.co.in (for Kashmir Division) citing all the relevant details which shall be addressed after due processing at the earliest possible. The aggrieved students, if any, can contact their respective schools or the nearest JKBOSE Sub/Branch office. JKBOSE provides an opportunity to the students to get a photocopy and re-evaluation of their answer sheets for which they can apply online after the notification is issued in this regard.

DoB tampering: Pre...

examination in the year 1981, as she had not then attained the eligible age of 17 years as on December 31, 1981.

It further transpires that she got her date of birth corrected from JK BOSE in the year 1981, whereby she got her new date of birth certificate, carrying date of birth as April 8, 1964. Based on this corrected date of birth certificate, she became eligible to appear in the MBBS entrance examination and she did appear and qualified the same and got selected for the said course. When she got admission in the GMC, Jammu for the MBBS course, she mentioned her age in the admission form as April 8, 1964. Same she has filled up in her own hand and signature on October 20, 1981. Later, after completing her MBBS course, she got appointed as Assistant Surgeon in the year 1988. At the time of her appointment, she then submitted Matric diploma, carrying her date of birth as April 8, 1965, as her age proof. Same has got mentioned on the first page of the service book, carrying her signature thereon which stands confirmed by the authority who attested the particulars on the first page, who was the then Chief Medical Officer, Health and Family Welfare, Jammu.

With this date of birth, she then continued her service career. Even in her declaration form submitted in the University of Jammu in the year 201617, she has mentioned her date of birth as April 8, 1965. So the allegation that she carried two date of birth certificates, which she has used conveniently at two different occasions for obtaining two different benefits – the certificate based on 1964 date of birth she managed from JKBOSE and used for appearing in MBBS entrance examination and admission in the said course. But, when got appointed as Assistant Surgeon, then, with some different intentions, presented age proof based on the Matric Diploma carrying date of birth as 1965. The said controversy, relating to date of birth of the applicant, came to fore in 2021, when Crime Branch, Jammu, received a complaint in this regard from a person, namely, Manu Gupta, resident of Channi Himmatt, Jammu. Pursuant to said complaint, a preliminary verification (PV) was initiated in the same year by the Crime Branch, Jammu. Finally, the allegations in the PV were found correct which led to the registration of an FIR57/2023 on July 1, 2023 against the accused.

Search warrant got issued by the Additional Judge, Anti Corruption, Court, Jammu, whereby searches were conducted in the office and the house of the accused. Some documentary evidence has been recovered which form part of the CD file.

Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina observed that during the course of full length arguments on the instant application, I found a candid admission of facts by the counsel for the applicant that accused appeared in MBBS entrance examination in the year 1981 on the basis of the corrected date of birth as 08-04–1964 and based on it, she also got admission in MBBS course in GMC, Jammu. However, she mistakenly supplied her matriculation diploma at the time of appointment, carrying date of birth as 08-041965, an error at her part without any guilty intention.

So, prima facie, Court do not find any divergence of opinion on the allegations attributed to her by the prosecution that there are two date of births being carried by the applicant which she has used at two different stages of her career. However; after getting her appointment, she continued with her date of birth as 08-04-1965. Even in the year 2016, she in her declaration, submitted to Jammu University mention her date of birth as 08-04-1965. Not only to this context, but even in her reply to the questionnaire, put to her by the Crime Branch, Jammu, in the year, 2021, when the PV was going on, therein also she has categorically stated her date of birth as 08-04-1965. So based on these facts as revealed in the report and the CD file, there is no two opinion with regard to existence of two different date of births, conveniently used by the accused on two different occasions—one for getting admission in MBBS and second when got appointed as Assistant Surgeon. So the offence of fraud, forgery and misconduct under Prevention of Corruption Act, as pleaded by the APP; are prima facie made out.

In that context, the element of humiliation and unnecessary targeting of the accused, based on some fake and false complaint is absolutely ruled out and any such argument pleaded by the counsel for accused does not sustain at all.

Now, in this context, whether the offence alleged is a high gravity offence, one of the factor to be considered while deciding the anticipatory bail application. Fact remains that gravity of the offence is not to be gauged only in context of the punishment prescribed. Though, it is on a higher degree for the said offences, but in my appreciation, notwithstanding to the degree of punishment, it is more to be seen in context of the status and position of the person who is alleged to have committed the same, Court said.

Court further said that a doctor by profession, who happened to be earlier a teacher in the Medical College and presently at a high pedestal in the hierarchy is consciously continuing her alleged fraud, with two date of births certificates, using conveniently at different occasions, makes the alleged offence of high gravity. She, being the role model should not have even thought in her imagination which is alleged to have been done by her. Even she carries two pan cards, two driving licences with two different date of births. Even in LIC policies, her date of birth mentioned is 1964. So this is the conduct of the accused who is holding the coveted position of Principal Government Medical College. This speaks of her antecedents, another factor to be considered by the court while dealing with her prayer for grant of Pre-arrest bail.

During preliminary verification, a questionnaire was sent to her by the Crime Branch, Jammu on 09-05-2021, to know from her as what were the documents she submitted with the application form for admission in the MBBS, also copies of the said documents were sought from her.

In her reply, she stated that she did not remember and the documents must have been attached with the form. However; it was astonishing to note that when the investigating agency raided at her residence, there it found the original admission file of her; carrying no age proof attached with it. How come she was having the custody of the original admission file of her which dates back to 1981, supposed to be in the concerned admission section of the college. Why only the age proof is missing from it when it is the foundational document on the basis of which she claimed her eligibility and later got admission in the MBBS course. So obviously, she by misusing her position as Principal, managed to get the old file and then either has destroyed the document or is in her custody. Apart, keeping the admission file with her; carrying no age proof with it, simply speaks that she was not sure about the genuinity of her age proof as 08-04-1964, on the basis of which she has got eligibility to appear in MBBS entrance examination and later admission in MBBS course in the year 1981. Astonishingly, after getting appointment, she continuously sticked to her original date of birth as 08-04-1965. This is an important issue which is very pertinently raised by the prosecution to be considered by the court while deciding the instant application.

Her complete refusal to Crime Branch to respond on this issue as it is a 40 year old matter and on the other hand managed to get admission file from the section, which now carries no age proof of her; sufficiently sustains the doubt about the genuinity of second date of birth certificate carrying the date of birth as 08-04-1964. It is the said document on which the edifice of her whole career rests, genuinity of which apparently has of course been put into doubt by none else but by her own conduct, hence a fact inevitably needs to be investigated meticulously.

In addition, by refusing to respond fairly to Crime Branch and keeping the admission file in her custody speaks of her influence, potential and tendency to tamper with the evidence, who instead of cooperating with the investigating agency as a bonafide public servant even fled away and was not available at her office or home when the investigating agency raided at both the places.

With these observations, the Court observed that at the outset, the order granting or refusing bail must reflect a fine balance between the two conflicting interests i.e, sanctity of individual liberty and the demand of effective, perfect and fair investigation by the police. When seen in context of facts, as put in the preceding paras, Court don't find any justification left to this court to sustain the plea of pre-arrest bail to be granted to the accused. Consequently, the interim bail, granted vide order dated 06-07-2023 is not being extended further.

LG interacts with...

Srinagar organised by Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports after which they will leave for China on August 5, 2023.

Congress should thank...

in the Constitution and in the same Constitution, it was written that it is a temporary provision."

Asked about opposition parties here claiming lack of democracy in the Union Territory, Singh said Modi had brought grassroots democracy to Jammu and Kashmir for the first time.

"The democratic set up is already there, panch, sarpanches are there. We have BDCs and DDGs also. This credit also goes to Modiji that for the first time, district councils have been set up here. The issue is that there was no democracy earlier. The grassroots democracy has come due to Modiji," he added.

About the poll violence in West Bengal, Singh said it was condemnable and cannot be tolerated in a democracy.

"The unfortunate incidents in Bengal are condemnable on three counts. It exposes the political hypocrisy. Those who said democracy has been murdered in Maharashtra, see how they are murdering it in Bengal. Law and order and governance has failed, and

unleashing of state terrorism. The government is itself involved in this bloodshed. Such situation cannot be tolerated in a democratic country. The concerned departments and authorities will take appropriate action," he added.

NH closed for...

The highway was closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday following incessant rains that triggered multiple landslides and also severely damaged a portion of the road near Panthiyal Tunnel and Chamba-Seeri in Ramban district, leaving thousands of vehicles stranded.

"Barring the Chamba-Seeri stretch where a 60-metre strip of road was washed away, the highway is almost clear of all hurdles and is traffic-worthy," a traffic department official said.

He said the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is working round-the-clock at Chamba-Seeri and is working on an alternate alignment to ensure early restoration of the road.

"The restoration work will take some time. The stranded vehicles will be cleared on priority once the road is made motorable," the official said.

However, no fresh traffic will be allowed either from Jammu or Srinagar till the clearance of the stranded vehicles, he added.

A police spokesperson advised people to avoid travelling on the highway till the time confirmation is issued by the administration. "Incessant rains, over the last few days, in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir, have caused unprecedented damage to NH-44, especially the stretch in Ramban district, forcing its closure for traffic," the spokesperson said. He said drivers of heavy motor vehicles are advised to take Mughal Road for the journey from Jammu to Srinagar and vice-versa. "The administration is making its best possible efforts to ensure the restoration of traffic on the national highway at the earliest," the spokesperson said. According to traffic officials, the Mughal Road – an alternate link connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with the south Kashmir Shopian district -- was through for both-way traffic.

Union Secretary reviews...

update on the progress of different schemes across the Union Territory. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G), Commissioner/Secretary thanked the MORD Secretary for sanctioning additional 199550 houses to JK, to saturate its Permanent waiting list in this year. She assured that entire RDD team is working hard to ensure completion of all houses by 26th Jan24. The meeting also delved into the progress and status of J&K-based schemes such as HIMAYAT and JK Rural Livelihood Mission's UMEED, besides, SAGY and RURBAN.

LG, Azad, DGP...

Department, his wife and son in the tragic road accident in Poonch. My heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. Prayers for the speedy recovery of the daughter, who was injured in the accident. I have instructed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the bereaved family".

Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAI) Ghulam Nabi Azad offered his condolence to Bali family on the loss of Ranbir's wife and son in the same accident.

"The news of the death of Ranbir Singh, his wife Parvinder Kour and son Irvan Singh in a tragic accident is shocking as the loss of lives is unbearable. The recovery of daughter Mahreen Kour in stable condition is heart filling. I express my deepest condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family at this hour of grief and pray for eternal peace to the departed souls," Azad said.

Azad also offered his condolences to the families of those persons who were killed after their bus was hit by a landslide near Bhangthroo Gandoh village of Doda district on Sunday morning.

Expressing condolence to the families of Amir Sohail, resident of Kahara Doda and Mudasir Ali of Halore Changa, Azad directed his party leaders and workers to reach out to kin of the victims and those injured in the accident.

A condolence and prayer meeting was convened by JAKFAS, which was presided over by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta to mourn the demise of Ranbir Singh Bali, along with his wife and son. Dr Mehta expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a fatal accident. The Principal Secretary, Forest Ecology and Environment Department Dheeraj Gupta also offered his heartfelt condolences and praised the Ranbir Singh Bali for his outstanding work as a senior finance officer and his compassionate nature. The condolence message of Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya was read out by DG, Audit & Inspections, Fayaz Ahmad in which he has expressed his deep shock and bereavement over these loss of lives.

In addition, Director General Budget, Yaqoob Itoo, and Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Mahesh Das, attended the condolence meeting.

The Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Dilbag Singh condoled and expressed grief over the sad and untimely demise of Ranbir Singh Bali, his wife and son.

DGP has conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and relatives of the deceased and prayed for the departed souls.

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured daughter of the deceased officer who was also traveling with them.

Meanwhile, the Finance Department expressed grief over the demise of Ranbir Singh Bali, his wife and son.

The condolence message reads "It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart that we come together to share the devastating news of an unimaginable tragedy. Our exceptional colleague, Ranbir Singh Bali, Director Finance, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, an officer of the highest Caliber in the Finance Department, his beloved wife and son, lost their lives in a fatal road accident. Our souls are weighed down by grief as we try to comprehend the magnitude of this immense loss. Only their daughter, a survivor in the face of unthinkable odds, remains to bear witness to the shattered remnants of a once joyous family.

In this moment of profound sorrow, we struggle to find the words that could adequately convey the depth of our emotions. The pain we feel is indescribable, and the void left by their absence is immeasurable. The JAKFAS mourns not only the loss of an exceptional officer, but also the extinguishing of a beautiful family, united by love and shared dreams. Ranbir Singh Bali, a true luminary within our organization, was a beacon of financial expertise and acumen. His brilliance spanned across departments, as he contributed his remarkable skills to various facets of our organization. His dedication and commitment to excellence were an inspiration to all who had the privilege of working alongside him. Through his exceptional financial & administrative expertise, he paved the way for success and growth, leaving an indelible mark on the Finance Department. As we struggle to come to terms with this devastating news, let us remember the remarkable contributions Bali made to the Finance Department and the lives he touched along the way. His wisdom, guidance, and genuine care for his colleagues and subordinates created an atmosphere of camaraderie and shared success. We will forever be grateful for the invaluable mentorship he provided, shaping the careers of many who had the privilege of working with him. In the wake of this profound loss, our thoughts, prayers, and support extend to the surviving daughter: We stand united, ready to offer our comfort, assistance, and a shoulder to lean on during this dark and tumultuous time. Words alone cannot ease the pain that consumes us, but together, we can find solace in our shared memories and in supporting one another through this arduous journey of healing. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her, and we offer our support as she navigates the difficult road ahead.

In this time of immeasurable grief, let us lean on one another, united in our sorrow and united in our commitment to heal." The Director Accounts and Treasuries, Jammu, Director Finance (Principal) NZATI/Joint Director Fund Office/Deputy Director A&I alongside other senior officers and staff members of Accounts & Treasuries Organization also expressed deep remorse, profound grief and heartfelt condolences on sad and untimely demise of Ranbir Singh Bali. Homage was paid by observing two minutes silence in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Accounts & Treasuries, Jammu. The participants prayed to almighty to bestow everlasting peace to the departed soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Does Nation want a United India or a Divided India, questions Brig Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Either a rotten apple or a bad fish, remember; both will spoil the surroundings and that's exactly what is happening in Kashmir today stated Brig Anil Gupta, spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party in a press release issued here today. He further added while the normalcy has returned to a large extent yet there are a few "rotten apples" and "bad fish" who are against total normalcy. They continue now and then to pollute the atmosphere. Those questioning the government for not holding elections despite the claim of normalcy need to understand that till the "rotten apples" and "bad fish" which are part of deep rooted statusquoist ecosystem are completely eliminated, the thought of elections will be like harakiri. If allowed to survive they will take no time to take Kashmir back to the days which the new generation is trying to forget. "With this in the back of your minds, please think if you would ever want 370 to be restored?" Brig Gupta appealed to the people. Referring to the commencement of hearing from today in the Supreme Court, Brig Gupta stated, "The question before the judges is, whether there should be one India or a divided India? Should India have One Constitution or many Constitutions?"

History is replete with the facts that a divided India had always been a lucrative destination for the invaders and whenever there had been strong rulers who unified the nation, Bharat used to be the Vishaw Guru or the world leader.

The next few months are going to witness very interesting and learned arguments in the Supreme Court that would decide the future of India.