

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

LG rolls out...

on a subsidized rate while ensuring it does not exceed 35 kg per household. He informed that the augmentation was discontinued last year after Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS-D) run by Government of India was discontinued. It has now been revived at revised price. In order to remove financial burden of poor families and ensuring access to food and nutritional security, a new scheme has been launched, he said. Under new scheme a PHH with one beneficiary will get an additional allocation of 5 kg and a PHH with beneficiaries ranging from 2-5 will get an additional 10 kg, each month while maintaining maximum allocation per household. For the additional allocation, J&K Government will procure the rice from Government of India at Rs.34 per kg and it will be provided to the beneficiaries at Rs.25 per kg, thus ensuring subsidy of Rs.9 per kg. The new scheme will incur a financial implication of over Rs. 180 Crore a year. The Lt Governor also said that as and when the Government of India restarts sale of wheat under OMSS (D), the UT administration will include wheat in the scheme.

95 pc of...

Line (USBRL) project on Friday. Chaudhuri carried out an intensive inspection of the project and other ongoing works in Jammu and Kashmir. He was accompanied by the USBRL's Chief Administrative Officer S P Mahi, Director R K Hegde and other senior officials. Mahi explained to the team that of the 272-kilometre stretch of the project, 161 kilometres of railway tracks have already been commissioned. "On the remaining 111-kilometre-long Katra-Banihal section, work is completed up to 95 per cent in spite of all geological, topographical, and meteorological challenges," he said. Chaudhuri commenced his inspection from Katra onwards by motor trolley up to tunnel T1 and thereafter, conducted an exhaustive inspection and review of tunnel T1 at the site with officers and the agency. He further conducted an inspection of the world's highest Chenab railway bridge.

Two soldiers feared...

was no trace of the soldiers who were swept away by the strong current, they said. Meanwhile, police vehicles fitted with public address systems went around various parts of the district to advise people to stay away from the water bodies which are in spate following incessant rains since Thursday night.

Thousands of pilgrims...

due to the inclement weather," an official said. "No fresh batch of yatris were allowed (to leave) from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp this morning in view of the suspension of the Yatra in the Valley and the inclement weather," a police official told PTI. The meteorological department has predicted widespread light to moderate rains, accompanied by thundershowers, under the influence of monsoon winds and western disturbances across Jammu and Kashmir till Sunday. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the shrine, situated at an altitude of 3,888 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The Yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31. Over 80,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine so far. The pilgrims were stranded in Jammu and at various places including Chanderkote along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which was closed for traffic following multiple landslides and the washing away of a portion of the road near Panthiyal tunnel.

But the inclement weather has not dampened the spirits of devotees. "I was supposed to leave for the Valley to join the yatra today (Saturday) but the closure of the highway and the weather did not allow further journey," Deepu, a resident of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh told PTI at Bhagwati Nagar base camp. Deepu, who was accompanied by several friends, said they will wait for the weather to clear and will complete their Yatra. "We are here on the call of 'Baba Barfani' and are not going back unless we perform darshan," he said. Manisha, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, said she had come with a lot of hopes and prayers and will wait till the next week before thinking of returning home. The devotees were also stopped at the Baltal and the Nunwan base camps. A landslide occurred on the Baltal route of the Yatra track following heavy rain in the area. However, there were no reports of any loss of life. The Yatra will resume once the weather improves, the officials said. Suraj Sharma, a resident of Ghaziabad (UP), said he is satisfied with the arrangements made by the local administration for the pilgrims at the base camp. "We have left for the Yatra and we are going to complete it even if it means waiting for a month," he said.

On Friday, a batch of 4,600 pilgrims was stopped at Chanderkote along the national highway in Ramban district to avoid crowding at the Pahalgam base camp after the Yatra's temporary suspension. Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that senior officials are monitoring the situation and adequate arrangements have been made on the ground. "Efforts are being made to evacuate the stranded Yatris as soon as the weather shows even the slightest improvement. We are constantly in touch with the authorities. "I have personally spoken to Army Commander, Northern Command, Lt Gen (Upendra) Dwivedi, and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Amarnath Shrine Board, Dr Mandip Bhandari. Both the senior officers personally monitor the situation," the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. He said the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and SDRF are already on the job. "The yatris are requested not to panic and follow instructions issued by the authorities from time to time," the minister added. The Yatra was suspended on Friday following widespread rain, particularly along the twin tracks - the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The meteorological department said intermittent light to moderate rain is likely to continue at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, with the possibility of heavy to very heavy showers at isolated places of the Jammu division. All the pilgrims are safe and sheltering at halting stations along the route, the officials said, adding that the yatra will resume after the weather improves. Meanwhile, the Army is conducting area domination patrols daily along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway with drones, surveillance equipment and sniffer dogs to ensure a secure passage for Amarnath pilgrims, officials said on Saturday.

The drills on the highway are an integral part of the multi-security grid responsible for facilitating a smooth and incident-free pilgrimage spanning 62 days from July 1, they said. "The Army undertakes intense area domination patrolling along the entire route of the yatra, from Jammu to Banihal and beyond, providing security to pilgrims," a senior security official told PTI.

Amarnath Yatra: Div...

that the EOCs (Control Rooms) function round the clock in all the districts. The DCs were told to visit lodgment centres to oversee the provision of facilities to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. The Div Com also reviewed the status of National Highway at Ramban and instructed DC Ramban and Project Director NHAI to mobilize adequate men and machinery to clear the road and maintenance of the traffic worthiness of the old road. The Div Com also asked to allow the pilgrims who want to visit local shrines, temples and tourist destinations in the districts they are staying. It was informed that the Registration and distribution of tokens for Yatra will also be suspended for tomorrow. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Arny Lavasa; Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta, while Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Ramban alongwith concerned officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Democracy murdered in...

stations are being attacked. Today there is an atmosphere of 'Jungle Raj' in the whole of Bengal," Chugh said adding that the State Election Commission had sought the help of central security agencies for conducting safe elections, the Calcutta High Court had asked for central security agencies but Mamata Banerjee does not follow any constitutional norms. Insulting the Constitutional head of the state, non-implementation of the order of the High Court shows that Mamata Banerjee's arrogance has put the state's security system at stake, Chugh said. The party with the opposition alliance for the Lok Sabha elections is not able to conduct Panchayat elections peacefully in their state, the people of Bengal and the country will answer for this, Tarun Chugh said.

Anti Corruption Court...

Sudhan Sharma (Principal and Dean, GMC&AH Jammu) in Police Station EOW Crime Branch Jammu and further investigation initiated.

"Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma is performing her Government service on basis of forged/fabricated DoB. She with the connivance of the then officers/officials of JKBOSE committed the offence of forgery and used forged document as genuine, thereby causing wrongful gain to herself and corresponding wrongful loss to the State exchequer," read the contents of the FIR.

It is worthwhile to mention here that on July 6, 2023, Special Judge Anticorruption granted two days interim bail to Principal GMC with the direction that subject to furnishing personal and surety bonds of Rs. 50,000 each with the following conditions that she will fully participate in the investigation and will respond to the directions of the IO in this regard; that she will not leave the jurisdiction of this court without the prior permission of this court and she will not influence the witnesses or to tamper with the evidence in any manner.

Today when bail application was listed, Special Judge T K Raina after hearing Adv Pranav Kohli for the applicant, reserved the bail application for orders.

Cong means 'Loot...

makes the country hollow and when it goes out of power, it defames the country by abusing it. Their leaders go abroad and abuse India, while BJP workers sacrifice everything for the sake of the nation, Modi said. The Congress government has done a lot of damage to Rajasthan in four years and its defeat in Rajasthan "is so certain that its government has already entered a 'bye-bye mode'," he said. "I have come to know that some ministers and legislators have already vacated their government bungalows and shifted to their homes. Only Congress leaders can be so confident of their defeat," he said. Public anger against the Rajasthan government has risen, and when this happens it takes no time to unseat those in power, Modi said.

"There is only one meaning of the Congress... 'loot ki dukaan' and 'jhooth ka bazaar'," the prime minister said in an obvious jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's frequent remarks about his party opening 'mohabbat ki dukaan' in 'nafarat ka bazaar'.

He said Rajasthan, the country's desert state where elections are due later this year, should have been at the top in the implementation of piped water project Jal Jeevan Mission, but today it is among the laggard states.

He also accused the state government of "misleading" people by announcing schemes and making promises as the election approaches.

"In all these tall promises, there is nothing but 'loot ke irade anr jhooth ka pitara' (intention of loot and bundle of lies)," he said, adding the farmers of Rajasthan are the biggest victims of the Congress' "politics of lie and deceit".

"There is an old saying that a lamp flickers the brightest when it is about to extinguish. The Congress is also doing the same as it fears its defeat. It has come down to misleading the people of Rajasthan," Modi said.

He said while the Rajasthan Congress is mired in internal feuds, the chief minister is busy trying to save his son's future, "not worried about the future of the sons and daughters of Rajasthan. Many ministers and legislators are bitter towards him".

Without naming Rahul Gandhi, Modi said that ahead of the 2018 elections, he had promised to waive farmers' loan within 10 days of coming to power, and asked people if it is has been done.

Hatred towards farmers is the nature and reality of Congress, he alleged, adding the party has a problem with the army and soldiers too.

Congress leaders asked for evidence on surgical strike, and on air strike, they said that nothing like that had happened, Modi charged.

On the internal tussle between Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, the PM said without naming them that since the Congress government came to power in the state everyone is pulling each other's legs.

"There is open bargaining to make their factions strong. The fight is not limited to factions only, all ministers are also fighting among themselves... The government is engaged in this tussle," Modi said.

"There can be no hope of development under these people," he said. "Today, I want to tell these people bluntly enough of this 'Noora Kushti (fixed fight)'. Now, the public will decide in the arena of democracy... now Rajasthan needs a stable government, a double-engine government, Rajasthan needs 'Vikasvaad', not 'Parivarvaad'," he said.

He pointed to incidents of communal tension and also took a swipe over paper leak cases.

"A new industry of paper leak has opened in the state," he said. Union Minister of State for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said that due to the investment-friendly policies of the Modi government, Bikaner has become a hub of solar energy.

Bikaner will become a ceramic hub in the days to come, he said.

Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, BJP state president CP Joshi, Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore, deputy leader of opposition Satish Poonia and other party leaders were present at the rally.

LG urges BHU...

Sinha paid tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and remembered his lifelong campaigns that have brought social and economic transformation in Indian society.

"Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya had scripted India's industrial revolution. Now, the country expects valuable contribution of alumni in critical areas of socio-economic development and in a rapidly changing global environment, we have to focus on developing indigenous capabilities," the Lt Governor said.

"Alumni have onerous responsibility of mentoring youth, building strong network to harness their existing potential to realize the dreams and ambitions of new India," the Lt Governor observed.

All the Alumni need to take a pledge to contribute to reforms, speeding up of infrastructure development and building of strong educational institutions to prepare today's young generation for tomorrow's challenges, he said.

At the Alumni Meet, the Lt Governor highlighted several milestones achieved in the health and medical education sector of J&K.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released souvenir of BHU Alumni meet, and publications on Medicos and NEET MCH Exam.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board; Bhupinder Kumar; Secretary Health and Medical Education; Prof. Parvaiz Ahmad Koul, Director SKIMS; Head of Departments from BHU and GMC, former HoDs, alumni of BHU and their family members were present on the occasion.

CJ inaugurates Legal...

inaugurating the Legal Aid Clinic, the Chief Justice delivered Presidential address in which he invoked the Preamble of the Constitution, which calls for securing justice for all citizens. He also highlighted the importance of providing free legal aid to vast sections of people who are still unaware of their legal rights and privileges.

"Judiciary has to play important role about legal awareness apart from adjudication", Justice Kotiswar said.

He added that Judiciary has to ensure that people's rights are not being trampled upon and dignity of the individuals is respected. He underscored the importance of Legal Aid Clinics in enhancing the people's access to justice.

"Legal Aid Clinics are one of the important ways to fulfill our Constitutional pledge of ensuring access to justice for one and all," he said.

The Chief Justice further remarked that PLVs are foot soldiers and can play important role in making Legal Aid Clinics more vibrant and effective by going to grassroots for legal awareness among the people to increase their access to justice.

"Legal Aid Clinics are one of the important ways to fulfill our Constitutional pledge of ensuring access to justice for one and all," Justice Kotiswar said. He added that our responsibility is to help those who are in need of help.

While congratulating District administration Kupwara, Chief Justice said that he was happy to note that development has taken place in Tangdhar and Teetwal areas.

"Rich history and contribution of Karnah residents are immense, though there are some difficulties, but by co-operation and coordination we can overcome these difficulties", he said.

Meanwhile, at Government Degree College Kupwara, Chief Justice interacted with students and received their feedback regarding judicial system and their interest in judiciary.

Civil Judge/Munsiff, Tangdhar, Faizan I Nazar conducted the proceedings of programme. President Bar Association Tangdhar presented welcome address at Degree College Tangdhar.

District & Sessions Judge Kupwara delivered the welcome address at the inauguration function at Teetwal and said that Legal Aid Clinics are bridging the gap of justice, empowering the people by generating awareness about legal rights and social justice to marginalised sections of society.

While complimenting the role played by the Chief Justice, she said that the Chief Justice has brought innovations in judiciary.

She thanked Chief Justice for visiting Kupwara District especially Tangdhar and Teetwal.

DC Kupwara, while expressing gratitude on behalf of civil administration and people of Kupwara district, thanked the Chief Justice for visiting Karnah said that it is a land mark event in the history of Karnah Sub Division that for the first time any Chief Justice has visited this far-off area and interacted with bar and people.

He presented the development profile of the district said that Kupwara district has been chosen in Aspirational District plan in the country and improving different parameters and Thematic areas.

Civil Judge/Munsiff Tangdhar proposed the vote of thanks at teetwal. Chief Justice also visited District jail Kupwara where he interacted with undertrials and prisons and passed slew of directions for expediting their trials and appeals respectively.

Transfer Scam: Court...

requested for the investigation in aforesaid background. On receipt of aforesaid complaint lodged as aforesaid, FIR No. 36/2017 for offences under sections sections 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) of PC Act 2006 and Section 120-B of RPC was registered and investigation triggered.

During investigation, it came to fore that Ajit Kumar Sharma remained posted as Incharge CEO Kishtwar from June 12, 2017 to September 9, 2017; that 135 employees were transferred/attached during this period who included Masters, teachers, RRTs/ RETs and other non-teaching staff; that 15 Masters were either transferred or deployed despite post of masters being of Divisional Cadre; that to transfer/deploy masters was beyond competence of accused C.E.O Kishtwar; that some of the masters were transferred twice within a period of one month; that 82 teachers were also shifted from their respective place of postings; that 16 RETs/PRETs were also shifted during this period by accused; that vide order dated August 24, 2017 issued by then Deputy CEO , all transfer orders issued after July 31, 2017 were cancelled; That all these transfer orders were found in violation of Rules and Regulations and transfer policy issued by Govt on July 28, 2010. Further, during the course of investigation it also surfaced that an inquiry was also conducted by Joint Director of Education Doda/Kishtwar/Ramban Range.

The inquiry report is on the file. During this inquiry, it was found that transfer orders were issued without reason and mid-term deployments were not justified. Deployments were made in CEO office, Kishtwar beyond sanctioned strength. However, according to inquiry report un-warranted mid-sessions transfers were made ignoring interest of students and man power without any rationale ; that Pardeep Koul (Master grade) posted at Govt H.S School (boys) Kishtwar was also engaged in personal section of accused C.E.O and he used to work as anchor on National Festivals ; that Lalit Kumar Shan and Pardeep Koul used to sit jointly in computer Lab of Govt H.S School boys till late Hours and Lalit Kumar used to type transfer orders being close associates of accused; that Kavi Raj, Shahnwaz (Master) and Vikrant Thakur (DNO) were also suspected to be involved in alleged transfers/deployment/attachments scam etc.

The Investigating officer, Inspector Maroof Ahmed however, concluded that allegations of mal-practices/corrupt practices for pecuniary benefits could not be established against accused and finally case was closed as "not proved". Eventually this closure report was presented in this court on March 8, 2018.

Additional Sessions Judge Anticorruption Doda Amarjeet Singh Langeh after gone through the entire gamut of allegations in the FIR, statements of vital witnesses and inquiry report suspecting foul play by accused and other officials - minutely, observed that he basis on which instant closure report has been presented and case closed as not proved - visibly demonstrates glaring acts of omission and commission by the investigating officer.

Undisputedly, over a period of nearly three months, accused CEO (Ajit Kumar Sharma) transferred/attached 135 employees who included masters, teachers, RRTs/RETs and other non teaching staff; 15 masters were either transferred or attached by accused without competence, for, the post of master is a Divisional cadre post and C.E.O is not authorized to transfer a master; that some of the masters were transferred twice within a period of one month; that 82 teachers were also shifted from their respective place of postings; that all transfer orders issued after 31.07.17 were cancelled and all these transfers were found to be in violation of Rules and Regulations and transfer policy issued by Govt. on 28.07.10. Not only that , Govt also ordered an inquiry tobe conducted by Joint Director of Education Doda/Kishtwar/Ramban Range. The inquiry so conducted found that transfer orders issued by accused aforesaid were without reason and mid-term deployments were not justified. Deployments made in C.E.O Office Kishtwar were found to beyond sanctioned strength. Inquiry report also reveals that the mid session transfers so made ignored the interest of students and man power without any rationale and that Pardeep Koul (Master), Lalit Kumar Shan , Shahnawaz (Master) and Vikrant Thakur (DNO) were also suspected to be involved in the aforesaid transfer racket in one capacity or the other in Cahoot with accused C.E.O. Why would someone do all this with blanket charter and with such an alarming degree of impunity unless it serves his interest?

Further, leave alone stitching together the observations made in inquiry report of Joint Director aforesaid and then widening investigation, investigating officer did not even choose to record the statement of aforesaid Joint Director and cite him as material witness in the case. This indifferent response to the inquiry report inculpatng accused and four other culprits as mentioned therein over whelmingly, for investigating officer then to close investigation on purported assumption that accused C.E.O worked as a "weak administrator" is wholly ironic to say the least. Circumstances summed up in the closure report therefore palpably demonstrate a baffling insistence by investigating officer to cover the case and some how shield/protect the culprits.

Court observed that inexplicably, the characters who have been found to be suspects in alleged transfer racket by inquiry report of Joint Director aforesaid, Investigating officer - for reasons best known to him, choose to record their statements under section 161 of Cr.PC as witnesses. This is whimsical to say the least. The investigation which began so feverishly, subsequently seems to have been toppled on pre-posterous assumptions of investigating officer as reflected in the closure report. For an investigating officer to harbor an illusion that alleged beneficiaries would furnish incriminating stuff against them is also profusely flawed. Again, failure on the part of investigating officer therefore to fix the characters involved in the network of aforesaid transfer racket in light of circumstances discussed above- Perse defies all logic. For all what is said herein above, investigation conducted and conclusion arrived at by investigating officer is perverse, absolutely ill-logical, demonstrably unusual, not in consonance with- law and palpably driven by an instinct to shield culprits involved in the racket. Investigating officer also refers to some external pressure on the accused CEO but failed to un-ravel the same alongside other key aspects which ought to have attracted his keen focus. Therefore, acceptance of instant closure report is declined and same is returned to investigating agency for " further investigation" in accordance with law with the direction to Director Anti-corruption Bureau J&K to cause the FIR in question further investigated in consonance with law and observation made here-in-above.

Traffic suspended on...

landslides near Rata Chambh in Poonch district. Road clearance agencies are on the job to ensure early restoration of traffic, the officials said. They said the waterlogging of the railway tracks near Hillar forced the suspension of the rail service between Banihal and Qazigund for the day. The weatherman has predicted widespread moderate to heavy rains with thundershowers under the influence of monsoon winds and western disturbances across Jammu and Kashmir till Sunday.

Water level rising...

said the valley received a considerable amount of rainfall during the night and the "water level (discharge) in the tributaries or nallahs of the Jhelum basin is expected to rise in the coming hours".

He added that the water level in the Jhelum is also on the rise and it is being monitored.

Those residing close to these tributaries or nallahs have been advised to remain alert and vigilant, the official said.

"People should avoid venturing near them," he added.

The water level is expected to experience a rising trend until Sunday, he said. Heavy to very heavy rain continued in many parts of Kashmir for the second day on Saturday. Some places witnessed a record rainfall over a 24-hour period in the month of July. A few areas in the higher reaches, including near the Amarnath cave shrine, experienced snowfall.

The meteorological department said intermittent light to moderate rain is likely to continue at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, with the possibility of heavy to very heavy showers at isolated places of the Jammu division.

The MeT office has asked those living in the lower catchment areas to remain alert as there is a possibility of flash floods, landslides or mudslides.

Temporary waterlogging and minor floods in low-lying areas may also be witnessed, it said. The weather system can lead to a temporary disruption of surface transportation over the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, Mughal Road, the Srinagar-Leh highway and other major hilly roads, the officials said.

Light snowfall at a few places in the higher reaches of the Kashmir division may also occur, they added. The administration in several districts has issued advisories to people, asking them to remain cautious, and set up control rooms for any eventuality.

Azad hails Govt...

per family. "From now onwards, 10 kg additional ration will be provided to each family covered under riority households. In J&K, 14.32 lakh ration card holders and 57,24000 families will be covered under Prime Minister's FSS for priority households in the UT," he said.