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ACB arrests ..

FIR number 03/2026 u/s 7 of PC Act 1988 read with amendment Act-2018 was registered in PS ACB Anantnag and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted.

The team laid a successful trap and caught the said Official Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat number 176/SPO of Police Station Larnoo Anantnag, S/o Khazir Mohammad Bhat R/o Batpora Larnoo Kokernag Anantnag red handed while demanding and accepting bribe. He was arrested on spot and bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team.

Subsequently, search of residential houses of the accused Police Official was carried out in presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses.

West Asia ...

from various countries and the strengths the country has built over the past decade have enabled India to bravely confront these circumstances," he said.

At the outset of this address, Modi said the month of March has been full of turbulence globally.

He said all citizens of the country remember that the entire world faced myriad problems for a long time on account of Covid.

"Indeed, all of us had expected that after emerging from the Corona crisis, the world would move forward on the path of renewed progress," Modi said.

However, he said, situations of war and conflict have continuously arisen in different parts of the world.

The West Asia conflict started on February 28. While the US and Israel attacked Iran, the Islamic Republic retaliated by targeting Washington's allies in its neighbourhood and Tel Aviv.

Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route through which 20 per cent of the world's energy is transported. Since the conflict began, Iran has allowed very few ships to cross it.

Modi has spoken to a number of world leaders, including those from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Iran, France, Israel and Malaysia, since the conflict started.

He has also spoken to US President Donald Trump. After a telephonic conversation between the two on March 24, Modi said he "had a useful exchange of views on the situation in West Asia".

Meanwhile, PM Modi today lauded the cricket team of Jammu and Kashmir for bagging the Ranji Trophy title for the first time and expressed hope that this winning streak of sports persons there continues in the future.

Addressing his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi said March has been a month full of excitement and enthusiasm for cricket fans across the country.

He said when India achieved a historic victory in the T20 World Cup, a wave of joy swept across the country and all citizens are very proud of the team's thumping success.

Late last month, a thrilling match was witnessed in Karnataka's Hubli, where the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team secured the Ranji Trophy, he said.

"It is most heartening to note that after a long wait of nearly seven decades, the team achieved its first Ranji Trophy title. This unprecedented success is the result of years of continuous efforts by the players," he added.

Modi said the Jammu and Kashmir team captain, Paras Dogra, displayed extraordinary skills, and through his leadership he played a significant role in this victory.

He said the performance of young Kashmiri bowler Aaqib Nabi, who took 60 wickets in the Ranji Trophy, is being talked about nationwide.

"This victory has thrilled the players and coaching staff, as well as the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said this impressive performance on the cricket field has further increased enthusiasm for sports among the youth in the Union territory, and it will inspire many young people to take up sports in the future.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have a tremendous passion for sports. I am glad that it is now becoming a hub for major sporting events," he added.

Gulmarg has already established itself as the host of the Khelo India Winter Games, and sports like football are also very popular among the youth there, Modi said.

"I hope this winning streak of Jammu and Kashmir sports persons continues in the future," he said.

Jammu Marathon ...

it into a hub of peace and prosperity, now capable of hosting international marathons, cricket tournaments, and even international events," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said when Government of India first conceived the Kashmir Marathon in December 2023 meeting, the goal wasn't just to organize

a race but it envisioned a new Jammu Kashmir announcing its arrival on the global sporting stage.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is now showcasing its boundless tourism potential on the world map," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that long-awaited dreams and aspirations are becoming a reality.

"Through Jammu Marathon, the participants have not only discovered new experiences within themselves but also witnessed the profound changes sweeping Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that fueled by the citizens' unyielding resolve, Jammu Kashmir Union Territory is setting new benchmarks in development.

"The renewed resolve taking root in our sporting arena. I am especially delighted that, in pursuit of Fit India, we are also igniting a new sporting revolution in Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu and senior officials of civil and police administration were present.

Film actors Milind Soman and Gul Panag; prominent citizens, sportspersons and youth in large number also attended the felicitation ceremony.

'Temples to ...

daily life," his office posted on X.

The event, themed "Temples to Trails", Abdullah said, will position Jammu as a vibrant destination for fitness tourism and cultural exploration, showcasing its rich heritage alongside its scenic landscapes.

Fitness icon Milind Soman, who participated in the half-marathon, described the event as a "wonderful experience" and said he was pleased to see the chief minister take part in the run.

"It is an honour to be here. I completed 21 km on Sunday, and a day before, I had darshan at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple. I covered about 20 km then as well," Soman told reporters, raising the slogan "Bharat Mata Ki Jai".

Soman said he enjoyed running in the rain and added that the enthusiasm of the people made him happy. "It also felt good to see the chief minister running," he said.

Actress Gul Panag praised the enthusiasm of both runners and organisers, highlighting the impressive turnout for the inaugural edition.

Describing the overwhelming support as a significant achievement, she noted that large numbers of people participated despite the inclement weather, and extended her congratulations to all participants and supporters.

Distance must ...

described the occasion as a landmark step towards strengthening access to justice in remote regions.

Emphasising that geographical constraints must not impede justice delivery, he observed that Kargil stands as a symbol of resilience. The newly inaugurated complex, he noted, represents not merely an augmentation of infrastructure but a qualitative enhancement of the justice delivery system, instilling renewed confidence among litigants.

Delivering the welcome address, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, extending warm greetings to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and expressed optimism regarding continued support for the expansion and modernisation of judicial infrastructure in the region.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his remarks, conveyed his deep appreciation to the Chief Justice of India for facilitating the inauguration. He underscored that, notwithstanding the virtual mode, the occasion carries profound significance. Characterising the complex as a symbol of the Government's commitment to accessible and effective justice, he assured full administrative support to the judiciary and expressed hope for the Chief Justice's future visit to Ladakh.

Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Kargil, proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the presence and contributions of all dignitaries. On behalf of the Chief Justice of India, he also handed over a symbolic key of a chamber in the lawyers' chamber block to the senior-most Advocate, Haji Ghulam Murtaza.

The President, Bar Association, Kargil, Advocate Riyaz Ahmed Khan, conveyed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the administration, describing the inauguration as a historic fulfilment of a long-pending demand. He expressed confidence that the new complex would substantially strengthen the justice delivery system in the district.

Dignitaries attending the event, both virtually and physically, included Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoun, Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC, Kargil; Ashish Kundra, Chief Secretary; Mukesh Kumar, Director General of Police, UT Ladakh; Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla, GOC, 14 Corps; senior officers of the Armed Forces; M.K. Sharma, Registrar General; Basheer-ul-Hag, Administrative Secretary; Qureshi Tarig Mahmood, Law Secretary; Rajesh (APCC/CWOL), Leh; the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kargil; the Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police, Kargil; judicial officers; members of the Bar; and officers of the civil, police, and prosecution departments.

Provisions on ...

Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act-2000 is vested in the State Election Commission," he said.

"The report submitted by the dedicated Backward Classes Commission is under examination by the competent authority, and further steps for the conduct of Panchayat/ULB elections will be taken accordingly," Dar said.

The minister said the delimitation of 77 ULBs -- municipal corporations, councils and committees -- was initiated following instructions issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department in December 2023. While the process has been completed for 72 ULBs, it is underway for the remaining five.

He said the report of the Backward Classes Commission is under consideration, and further steps for conducting elections will be taken after its approval.

Dar said, according to a notification issued by the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department on February 27 last year, the government has frozen the boundaries of districts, tehsils, municipalities, towns, revenue villages and other administrative units across Jammu and Kashmir with effect from July 1, 2025, until completion of the 2021 Census.

The minister said reservation and rotation of municipal wards will be carried out by the SEC, but the process can begin only after the OBC commission's report is approved and notified.

Following delimitation, reservations will be undertaken according to government directions.

Dar said the procurement of election material is underway, and a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Madhya Pradesh SEC for the supply of 7,000 multipost electronic voting machines for the ULB elections.

On panchayat elections, Dar said panchayat halqas were delimited ahead of the 2018 polls based on the 2011 Census, and no fresh delimitation is proposed as no new census has been conducted since then.

He reiterated that reservation and rotation for panchayat constituencies will also begin only after approval of the OBC commission's report.

The minister said electoral rolls have been revised with January 1, 2025, as the qualifying date, and the process of updating panchayat rolls is ongoing.

He added that tenders for the procurement of election material for panchayat and DDC elections have been finalised, and around 30,000 ballot boxes have already been supplied to districts.

CDF funds ...

Development Scheme in various districts so far. Srinagar recorded the highest savings of Rs 4.22 crore, followed by Poonch with Rs 3.72 crore and Samba with Rs 3.37 crore. Other districts, including Kulgam (Rs 2.16 crore), Kathua (Rs 1.85 crore), Pulwama (Rs 1.41 crore) and Anantnag (Rs 1.01 crore), also reported significant savings.

"As per the provisions of the Scheme guidelines issued on March 10, 2025 and October 30, 2025, the funds earmarked under the CDF Scheme are non-lapsable," the chief minister said, adding that accordingly, any tender savings or unspent balance at the end of the financial year are deposited in the government treasury and are carried forward for utilisation in the subsequent financial year.

He said these funds remain available for utilisation for works under the CDF scheme in accordance with the guidelines.

The circular instructions on this account have also been issued by the finance department on March 13, Abdullah said.

He emphasised that the arrangement ensures that funds under the CDF Scheme remain non-lapsable and continue to be available for utilisation in subsequent financial years, thereby enabling the legislators and district development commissioners to undertake development works as per the provisions of the scheme guidelines.

DCO Amit ..

students of Career Abacus who have explored their hidden talents and creativity especially after joining this Abacus course.

DCO/DCR J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma, during his presidential address, seized this opportunity to kick start campaign for Census 2027 while sharing valuable insights and unique features of upcoming Census 2027 wherein he requested the audience to fully understand the relevance of Census for development and growth in a nation especially where this much-needed massive national exercise is going to take place after a gap of about 16 years.

DCO/DCR Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Amit Sharma shared that recently, two mascots of Census 2027 namely Vikas and Pragati were unveiled by Union Home Minister and he urged, both the parents as well as student community, to participate in the all-important upcoming Census a big way. He also mentioned that for the first time, Census 2027 shall be a completely paperless exercise and expected that all households shall participate in a big way through its Self Enumeration application, which shall open for public, exactly a fortnight before the beginning of Census Houselisting Operation and Population Enumeration phases respectively.

Sharma also termed students and their families who attended this programme, as the 'brand ambassa-

dors' of upcoming Census 2027, who shall keep spreading awareness about this massive national exercise, which is set to begin all across the length and breadth of Bharat soon in all states and Union Territories.

Before culmination of the event, Amit Sharma was honoured by the head of Career Abacus Group Arvind Sharma who mentioned that his presence amongst the award-winning kids had made a big difference and acted as a true catalyst for these young students to perform better in times to come while learning alternate techniques of education, through the usage of alternative methodology of education, which is the need of the hour.

2more..

through the strait. Pine Gas and Jag Vasant, carrying 92,612 tonnes of LPG, reached Indian ports between March 26 and March 28. Prior to that, MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi, carrying about 92,712 tonnes of LPG, had reached Mundra port in Gujarat on March 16 and Kandla port in the state on March 17, respectively.

For a country that relies on imports from Gulf nations to meet as much as 60 per cent of its cooking gas needs, the arrivals will help ease the worst LPG shortage it is battling in decades. India consumed 33.15 million tonnes of LPG last year, with imports accounting for about 60 per cent of demand. As much as 90 per cent of those imports came from West Asia.

With the strait all but shut, it is sourcing LPG from nations like the US and Argentina.

"A total of 18 Indian-flagged vessels with 485 Indian seafarers remain in the western Persian Gulf region," the statement said.

Originally, there were 28 Indian-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz when the war in West Asia broke out. Of these, 24 were on the West side of the strait and four on the East side. In the last few days, six vessels from the west side and two from the east have managed to sail to safety.

Besides the six LPG tankers, the Indian-flagged oil tanker Jag Laadki, with 80,886 tonnes of crude oil from the UAE, reached Mundra on March 18.

Another tanker, Jag Prakash, carrying gasoline from Oman to Africa, had previously safely crossed the strait and is en route to Tanzania.

LPG carriers Jag Vikram, Green Asha and Green Sanvi are still in the western Strait of Hormuz. One empty vessel is being filled with LPG.

The DG Shipping control room is operating round-the-clock and has handled 4,523 calls and 8,985 emails since activation, including 92 calls and 120 emails in the past 24 hours, the statement said, adding that safe repatriation of more than 942 Indian seafarers so far, including four in the last day, has been facilitated.

Port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported, the statement said, adding that maritime boards across coastal states have confirmed smooth functioning.

True entrepreneurship

ecosystem was no coincidence but a tangible outcome of bold reforms and the relentless dedication of entrepreneurs.

"True entrepreneurship lies in converting crises into opportunities, and I take pride in how Jammu & Kashmir's entrepreneurs and innovators have exemplified this in action.

"Innovation is not a fleeting event. Genuine innovation and success stem from persistent effort, a commitment to pressing forward through adversity," he said.

Sinha also congratulated those entrepreneurs who set an example of creation for society amid hardships.

"In education sector, we have succeeded in shaping human potential's trajectory. Post-National Education Policy and COVID-19, transformations mark a new revolution. Covid obliterated physical classes overnight, yet stakeholders united to build education platforms from scratch, train teachers, and extend virtual tools even to villages unfamiliar with them," the LG said.

He highlighted that the technology integration, NEP-driven innovation, and research focus have birthed a new order, aiming to position India as a knowledge economy.

"We inhabit an era where change is a constant state. Technology, once a mere support system, now tests us fiercely. Amid this turbulence, we must contribute to nation-building with zeal and determination," Sinha said.

He suggested the inclusion of farming community in the next edition of the Big Impact Awards to honour their vital role in J-K's economy.

Over18K...

Division. Further 43 candidates appeared in Ladakh

A total of 33 papers across 15 streams were conducted, with 18,040 candidates appearing in the exams.

The smooth conduct of exams reflects the councils' commitment to maintaining high academic standards and strengthening professional training in nursing and allied healthcare disciplines.