

Dr Jitendra leaves for Berlin, ahead of PM's visit

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Apr 30 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today left for the Germany capital of Berlin, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to that country.

"In Berlin, Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral talks with Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellor of Germany, and the two leaders will co-chair the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC)," the MEA said in a statement.

charge of the top office from his predecessor Angela Merkel in December last year.

The accompanying Ministers in the official delegation are also scheduled to hold separate Bilateral



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking to the media before leaving New Delhi for Berlin, on Saturday.

meetings with their respective counterpart German Ministers. Accordingly, Dr Jitendra Singh is also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with his counterpart German Ministers holding the charge of Science Education & Research, Nuclear Safety, Environment, etc.

"During his visit, Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Scholz would also jointly address a business event. The Prime Minister will address and interact with the Indian community in Germany," the MEA said.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Prime Minister will first travel to Germany, then visit Denmark and

will have a brief stop over in Paris on his return journey on May 4.

In Paris, Modi will hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, who was re-elected to the top post on Monday after he defeated rival Marine Le Pen in the fiercely-fought presidential election.

From Germany, Modi will travel to Copenhagen at the invitation of the Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen as well as also participate in the second India-Nordic summit being hosted by Denmark.

The MEA said the bilateral component of the visit will include talks with Frederiksen as well as an audience with Queen Margrethe II.

"The green strategic partnership was the first of its kind arrangement between India and Denmark. The visit would provide both sides an opportunity to review its progress, as well as examine ways to further expand our multifaceted cooperation," the MEA said.

"During the visit, the Prime Minister will attend an India-Denmark Business Forum and also address members of the Indian diaspora," it said.

At the India-Nordic summit, Modi will also interact with other Nordic leaders including Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir of Iceland, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store of Norway, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and Prime Minister Sanna Marin of Finland.

During his return, Modi will briefly stop over in Paris and meet Emmanuel Macron, President of France," the MEA said.

Withdrawal of pension for involvement in MBBS scam HC turns down plea of ex-BOPEE Chairman

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: High Court has turned down the plea of former Chairman of Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) Mushtaq Ahmed Peer challenging the order of University of Kashmir whereby his monthly pension has been withdrawn in terms of Article 168 of the J&K Civil Service Regulations for his involvement in the MBBS scam and conviction by the Anti-Corruption Court Kashmir.

While dismissing the petition, Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed, "the petitioner cannot claim that since appeal against his conviction is pending adjudication before the High Court, as such, he be not treated as a person convicted for the purposes of applying the provisions of Article 168 of J&K CSR."

"The plea of the petitioner that he was not provided a prior opportunity of being heard is not tenable in law. This is so because had the petitioner been given an opportunity of being heard, the position would not have changed. The petitioner could not have, by any stretch of reasoning, demonstrated before the respondent-University that the offences for which he has been convicted are not serious or do not constitute grave misconduct", High Court said.

"Therefore, issuance of notice of hearing to the petitioner before passing of the order impugned, in the given facts and circumstances would have been

a useless formality. The legal position in this regard is well settled. The Supreme Court has held that principles of natural justice in particular principle of audi alteram partem is not a straightjacket rule having universal application. There may be situations where it is felt that a fair hearing would make no difference—meaning that hearing would not change the ultimate conclusion reached by decision maker", Justice Kumar said.

High Court further observed, "in the case in hand neither conviction nor sentence awarded to the petitioner is stayed and, therefore, for the purposes of Rule 168 CSR, the petitioner is a convict and continues to be so till exonerated by the appellate court by reversing the judgment of conviction", adding "Rule 168 CSR shall, therefore, operate and there is, thus, no illegality or infirmity in the impugned order. Consequently, the order impugned is upheld and the writ petition along with connected application is dismissed".

EPFO sets record, settles 1294 claims in a day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: EPFO Jammu has taken several initiatives to handle the workload, redress public grievances and settling the members' claims within reasonable time. Being service oriented Organisation, EPFO in J&K and Ladakh has been facing some specific challenges viz. compliance, incomplete member details,

In addition to the top three performers, many employees (including outsourced staff) were facilitated by Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, J & K and Ladakh on today at EPFO, Jammu in presence of Ajit Mishra, RPF-C-II. Accounts Officers Sanjeev, Amit and Shiva Murthy were also felicitated in a brief function organised in the office.



PF Commissioner Rizwan Uddin facilitating an official on Saturday.

lack of awareness amongst the members and employers, etc.

To overcome these challenges, EPFO Jammu functions from 6:45 AM to 9:30 PM in different shifts. The employees who have volunteered to work in challenging scenario by adjusting and adopting the circumstance and committed themselves to the greater cause by extending timely service to stakeholders. They attended Office in early hours and some of the top performers preferred to stay till late in evening, thereby achieving a new milestone of processing 1294 claims in a day.

Govt issues transfer orders of 5 doctors

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: The Government today issued transfer and adjustment orders of five doctors in Health and Medical Education Department.

The orders were issued by Vivek Bharadwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department.

Dr Arun Dev Singh, Consultant Pathology who was awaiting order of adjustment at Directorate of Health Services, Jammu was posted in CHC Jaurian. Dr Aslam Khan, MD Anesthesia, (Medical Officer) awaiting orders of adjustment at Directorate of Health Service Jammu has been posted in District Hospital Ramban.

Dr Mahak Mahajan, MD Anesthesia, (Medical Officer) who was awaiting orders of adjustment at Directorate of Health Services Jammu has been posted in CHC Nowshera. Dr Neeru Verma, MD Gyne & Obst) who was awaiting orders of adjustment at Directorate of Health Services Jammu has been posted in CHC Sunderbani and Dr Sayed Majid Malik in charge consultant surgery has been transferred from CHC Ramban and posted in Emergency Hospital Batote.

HC stays investigation of FIR in backdoor entries

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 30: High Court today stayed the investigation of FIR against Chairman Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd for appointing ineligible persons against various vacancies in the Bank.

The senior counsel Syed Faisal Qadri appearing for the petitioner-Shah as Chairman Cooperative Society does not fall within the definition of the 'public servant' as provided in the Prevention of Corruption Act as such the registration of FIR against him is not in tune with the law.

Justice Sanjay Dhar after having hearing the Advocate Qadri and having perused the material on record said a case for grant of interim indulgence is made out. Court accordingly issued notice to Senior Superintendent of Police Anit-Corruption Bureau and sought his response in the matter and till such time court stayed the investigation of FIR in question.

Accused-Shah preferred a petition under Section 482 of Code of Criminal Procedure before the court for challenging the FIR bearing No.04/2020 registered against him at Police Station Anti-Corruption Bureau Anantnag South Kashmir under Section 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of Jammu & Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, 120-B RPC.

The Registration of FIR against the accused-Shah came

to be registered in respect of the alleged commission of offence against while being discharging his functions as a Chairman Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Anantnag has without following a procedure appointed ineligible persons against various vacancies. It is further alleged in the FIR that the appointments in respect of such persons has been made in respect of various Class-IV positions.

It is further added in the FIR that the appointments so made have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Society, without following any procedure and in violation of Rules and regulations. The impugned FIR would further indicate that the appointments were initially made on temporary basis and consequently regularized during 2010-2013 by the Board of Management.

The petitioner, however, contends that the appointments were made by the Board of Directors after inviting applications from the eligible candidates and in this regard the Advertisement was issued by him and after the applications were received and scrutinized, the selection on temporary basis was made which was within the domain of the Petitioner as Chairman of the Bank, Board of Directors and the same was thereafter ratified by the General Body during the annual General Meetings.

Accused booked for allegedly committing rape acquitted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: Presiding Officer Fast Track Court Jammu Khalid Choudhary has acquitted one person who was booked for allegedly committing the rape with a 17 year old girl.

The case FIR No.299 of 2018 was registered at Gandhi Nagar Police Station against Arif Choudhary, son of Shah Din of Gujjar Nagar for the commission of offence under Section 376 RPC.

After completion of the investigation, the charge sheet was presented before the court of Special Excise Mobile Magistrate Jammu on 26.02.2019 and on the same day the case was committed to the court of Principal Session Judge Jammu.

The court of Principal Session Judge Jammu transferred the case to the court of 3rd Additional Session Judge Jammu on 05.03.2019. Thereafter, creation of Fast Track Court, the challan was transmitted on 11.05.2021.

During the course of trial the accused was charged on 14.03.2019 for the commission of offence under Section 376 RPC. However, the accused denied the guilt and claimed to be tried.

The Presiding Officer Fast Track Court found that the discrepancies and the contradiction appearing in the evidence of the prosecution are not normal but material discrepancies which have the effect of eroding the credibility of the prosecution case.

"On apparent perusal of the testimonies of most material witnesses of prosecution, the victim of offence who herself is the informant, mother, uncle, Dr Nishu Priya and

Investigation Officer, it is impracticably cleared that statements of all the witnesses are materially different from the case put up by prosecution", the court said, adding "victim of offence is the star witness in this case, she being privy to the circumstances of occurrence. The offence relating to commission of sexual intercourse is such which is not committed in open. In view of secret nature of the offence, it is only the accused and the victim who can tell best about the actual circumstances in which occurrence took place".

"I am aware that if there are no material contradictions or discrepancies in the testimony of witness/witnesses, his/her evidence cannot be disbelieved merely on the basis of some normal, natural or minor contradictions, inconsistencies or exaggerations. However, distinction is required to be made between the material contradictions or discrepancies and the normal/natural contradictions/discrepancies", the court said, adding "while minor contradictions do not corrode the credibility of the prosecution case, but material contradiction do".

"Over all analysis of the evidence of prosecutrix, IO as well as the doctor witness, with regard to committing of sexual intercourse by the accused there are major contradictions in their statements which creates doubt with regard to committing of rape by the accused", the court said, adding "there is no concrete evidence on record connecting the accused with the commission of offence".

With these observations, the court dismissed the prosecution case and acquitted the accused of the charge leveled against him.

Inflation keeps people away from markets ahead of Eid

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 30 : While the markets earlier used to remain jam-packed on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, this year, that scene is quite missing from Kashmir markets as the shopkeepers are holding inflation as well as the shirking of income sources responsible for the situation.

In Srinagar, Goni Khan Market, which used to be full of people 2-3 days ahead of Eid, is these days witnessing scarce presence of the customers, while as the shopkeepers

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

he said that they are also witnessing a decrease in the number of customers which they used to witness ahead of Eid.

"Earlier, two Eids were not celebrated due to COVID even as this market used to be jam-packed ahead of such a festival, but today you can see there is ample space, fewer people roaming around in the market," Manzoor Ahmad one of the shopkeepers said.

He said that the customers are carrying out less and nominal shopping because of inflation. "The budget of a common man is shrinking as prices rise with every passing day and there is less room for making savings," he said.

He said that people are not able to buy the things of need even as he claimed that people do not seem to be happy. "People are literally not in a position to buy things, but they have to; it is all due to compulsion that people are coming out," he said.

Another shopkeeper said that

Police files chargesheet against 9 accused in narco-militancy case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 30: Police today filed a chargesheet against nine accused persons in a narco-militancy case, related to the recovery of a cache of arms and ammunition and narcotics in Karnah area of Kupwara district last year.

"The charge sheet was filed in the Special NIA Court Baramulla against the six arrested accused and their three handlers presently based in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. The six accused arrested persons are Adil Husain Shah son of Mir Hyder Shah resident of Takiya Bhadr Koti Karnah, Fariz Hussain Shah son of Mir Shah resident of Padna Prada Karnah, Rafiq Ahmad Tanch son of Mohammad Khan Tanch resident of Bayyadi Karnah, Amir Fareed Tanch son of Fareed Ahmad Tanch resident of Biyadi Karnah, Mohammad Feroze Badan son of Yousf Badan resident of Amrohi Karnah and Umar Ashraf Lone son of Mohammad Ashraf Lone resident of Vijippra Hajan district Bandipora", said a police spokesperson.

"Investigation has established that the nine charge-sheeted

accused persons were part of a deep-rooted conspiracy for procuring arms, ammunition and narcotics from across the LOC and then supplying it to [militants] active in the Valley."

The narcotic drugs were sold for generating funds in J&K and other parts of India in close association with operatives of banned [militant] outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) based across the border in Pakistan.

"The funds generated were pumped for furtherance of [militant] activities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through a network of over ground workers arrested in the case. The Pakistan based [militant] handlers chargesheeted under section 299 CrPC in the case are Mohammad Saadiq Shah son of Akbar Shah originally hailing from Panjtara Karnah, Tanzeer Ahmad son of Mangta Shah originally hailing from Karnah now based in Muzafarabad and Mahmood Shah son of Maqsood Shah originally a resident

of Panjtara Karnah", the statement reads.

"The case was registered at Karnah Police Station of Kupwara district on November 2, 2021 after accused Adil Shah was arrested from whose possession 02 AK Rifles, 02 AK Magazines and 208 Rounds of AK were recovered on specific information developed by Police", it said.

Further investigations led to the recovery of 04 Pistols, 05 Pistol Magazines and one packet of Brown sugar and also the arrest of other accused persons in the case with the investigations of the case carried by DySP Sayed Majeed under the supervision of Addl SP Kupwara Pardeep Singh.

"The arrest of this OGW module of narco-terrorism in this case is a major setback to the [militants] and their handlers involved in supplying of arms and ammunition and funds to the [militants] in the Valley", the statement concludes.



Detained Congress activists shouting slogans during protest against power failure in Jammu.

Cong activists protest against power pangs, blame BJP for prevailing mess

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: Expressing his serious concern over unprecedented power crisis in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in general and Jammu province in particular, former J&K Youth Congress president and member of AICC Pranav Shagotra regretted that the BJP-controlled administration has pushed this region into complete chaos and confusion.

"System appears to be completely collapsed as masses are struggling to get basic amenities like Power and Water but those at the helm of the affairs are still in the deep slumber", Shagotra said while addressing a protest of party workers at Jammu.

A number of Congress activists, under the leadership of Pranav Shagotra participated in the protest march that started at Exhibition Ground and proceeded towards the old city. Cops did not allow the protest march to proceed further and took all Congress activists into custody.

Lambasting the BJP-controlled administration for adopting the inhuman approach in providing power to the people amid scorching heat, Shagotra said that the helplessness of the J&K Government to purchase power during summer is a clear indication that the present regime is least concerned about people.

"Instead of solving basic problems of the people, this Government is busy in getting cheap publicity at the cost of State exchequer", he said.

Pointing toward the recently held much-publicized 'Palli Rally', Shagotra alleged that the

Government funds, which were shamelessly mis-utilized for the political event were sufficient enough to purchase three months' power to give a big relief to the residents of Jammu in the summer months.

"According to a rough estimate, minimum, Rs 100 crores were mis-used from the Government's exchequer for the political event just to give political benefit to the BJP", he said, adding, "had that amount spent on purchasing power, the situation would have been better in Jammu region".

Congress leader recalled that for the last three successive months BJP controlled administration has spent crores and crores of rupees on publicity to create a fake impression that the power situation has been improved in the Union Territory.

Those who participated in the protest, included Hoshiar Singh Chib-Distt Vice President Jammu Urban, Balbir Singh Sarpanch, Rocky Choudhary, Rajan Sharma, Rahul Tondan (DYC President), Gupreet Singh, Sahil Savotra, Anil and others.

Power shutdown

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Industrial Area Bari Brahmana and Kartholi, Ratnuchak, Sainik Colony, Gurah, Raya, Mandal, Samailpur and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 01 from 8 am to 11 am.



Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust Ajatshatru Singh presenting two important publications to RSRIL at Raghunath ji Temple Jammu.

Ajatshatru presents two rare manuscripts to RSRIL

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust presented two important publications related to the scholarly tradition and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir to Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute and Library (RSRIL) at Raghunath ji Temple here today.

On the occasion, Dr Kamal Kishor Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Calcutta University, President J&K Dharmarth Trust, Advocate Ajay Gandotra, Secretary Dr Gopal Parthasarathi Sharma, Mayor Jammu Chandar Mohan Gupta, Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma and SM Sahni, former Director Tourism were present.

The two important publications namely "Descriptive Catalog of Oriental Manuscripts" published in three volumes and 11 volumes of manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on Shlokas of Srimad Bhagavadgita. The comprehensive Editorial Introduction, Research and Completion was presented by Dr Kamal K Mishra. The publication was dedicated to the Sanskrit

scholars of around the world in New Delhi under the guidance of Dr Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee, J&K Dharmarth Trust.

Ajatshatru Singh in his address mentioned that Dr Karan Singh has made the best of his contributions in this direction. He said these books have been published in his directions with the joint effort of J&K Dharmarth Trust Jammu and Kashmir and publisher Motilal Banarsidas Delhi. He informed that the Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute and Library, Raghunath ji Temple Jammu has been established by the Dharmarth Trust as part of this endeavour to collect the rare manuscripts and make them available to all especially the scholars.

Commenting on the catalogue of the manuscripts, Dr Mishra informed that the first volume of this treasure trove was prepared by Sir Aurel Stein (1894) by the instruction of Dogra Maharaja, second volume by Dr. Patakar of Deccan College Pune (1970), and the third volume by him and Dr Dhaniram Shastri (2003). These three volumes present the works of all ancient scholars with details of original manuscripts.

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