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Mukhtar Baba mastermind behind threatening scribes

Srinagar with several secessionist outfits. Baba has also been active on social media, making all out efforts to push the narrative at the behest hostile foreign agencies. Baba, 55, had worked as a journalist with four Valley-based organisations earlier and is very familiar with the media environment in Kashmir. He was lodged in Jammu's Kot Bhalwal Jail for quite some time in 1990.

HC vacates interim order, facilitates selections under Children of Defence Personnel category

higher priority and wards of Serving Personnel at lower priority for being discriminatory, irrational and illogical and in violation of the principles of equality provided under Article 14 of the Constitution.

The High Court vide order dated 18.04.2022 stayed the communication dated 30.11.2017 to the extent it pertains to the priority amongst the wards of Serving Personnel and Ex-servicemen without prejudice to the ongoing selection process.

Feeling aggrieved of the same, the Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) filed an application and submitted that it is not in a position to fill CDP category seats in various professional courses because of the interim order of the High Court dated 18.04.2022. The BOPEE further submitted before the High Court that it would not be in a position to fill any seat beyond the cut-off date and any unfilled seat will get wasted.

Even Union of India through its counsel submitted that the interim order is harshly operating against the candidates belonging to the CDP category pertaining to NEET and other selections and the interim order has serious ramifications and is detrimental to the rights and interests of various aspiring candidates belonging to the said category.

He further submitted that present writ petition has been rendered infructuous and is not maintainable in light of the fact that the petitioner through the medium of the present petition has called in question the policy framed by the Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Government of India dated 30.11.2017 relating to the inter-se priority, which has been super-

journalists and reporters based in Kashmir. The FIR was filed under sections 13 of the UAPA, and sections 505, 153B, 124A and 506 of the IPC in Sargari Police Station. Meanwhile, police today urged media houses not to discuss names of the journalists during their debate regarding online anonymous threat to them. "It has been noticed by our social media cell that many news portals are irresponsibly discussing names of media persons in their debates regarding the online anonymous threat to them," Srinagar police said in a statement.

"A case under relevant Sections has been already registered in Sargari police station about this threat," police said. "Media houses are requested not to fall for sensationalism in discussing names of victims in reporting and also to behave responsibly and not endanger the safety and security of their fellow journalists," the police added.

The counsel for the BOPEE even placed on record a copy of the status report with regard to the schedule of the counseling and the number of seats in CDP category (UG/PG and other courses).

After hearing counsel for the parties and perusal of record, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed, "keeping in view the new policy dated 21.05.2018 issued by Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen with regard to the supersession of earlier policy, the present petition does not survive and the same is, accordingly, dismissed without commenting upon the merits of the case, with a liberty to the petitioner to seek appropriate remedy available under law to call in question the policy dated 21.05.2018".

"Faced with this situation, counsel for the petitioner seeks withdrawal of the present writ petition with a liberty to file afresh, in order to throw challenge to the latest policy issued by Ministry of Defence", Justice Nargal said, adding "with a view to protect the interest of the petitioner so that grave prejudice is not caused to the petitioner, one seat in MBBS Course for the current session under NEET be kept reserved for the petitioner for two weeks from today or till the petitioner files a fresh writ petition as prayed for challenging the fresh policy issued by the Ministry of Defence, whichever is earlier". High Court further said, "the continuance/extension of the interim order insofar as reserving one seat in MBBS under CDP category will be subject to the further orders, if any, passed by this court". Accordingly, High Court dismissed the present writ petition as withdrawn with the liberty as prayed for and disposed of all connected applications.

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WEATHER JAMMU: Mainly dry TEMPERATURE Max: 23.4 Degree C Min: 10.7 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY RH-I (Morning): 65.0 per cent RH-II (Evening): 71.0 per cent Sunset on Friday: 05.31 p.m. Sunrise on Saturday: 07.05 a.m. SRINAGAR: Mainly dry TEMPERATURE Max: 15.4 Degree C Min: 1.2 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY RH-I (Morning): 99.0 per cent RH-II (Evening): 57.0 per cent LEH: TEMPERATURE Max: 4.5 Degree C Min: -9.0 Degree C

CINEMA APSARA AUDI-1: DRISHYAM2 (HINDI)- 10:00 AM - 12:45 PM, 03:45 PM, 6:30 PM, 09:15 PM. APSARA AUDI-2: MASAND - 10:15 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 06:45 PM, 09:00 PM. HARI THEATRE: WASHODA - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 06:30 PM. PVR KC AUDI 1: HONEYMOON (PUNJABI) 10:20 AM, DRISHYAM2 (HINDI) - 1:20 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:50 PM. PVR KC AUDI 2: DRISHYAM2 (HINDI)- 09:00 AM., UNNACHI (HINDI)- 12:10 PM, BLACK PANTHER WAKANDA FOREVER:3D (UA) (ENG) 03:40 PM, UNNACHI (HINDI) - 07:10 PM, BLACK PANTHER WAKANDA FOREVER:3D (UA) (ENG) 10:40 PM. WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: DRISHYAM2 (HINDI) - 10:30 AM, UNNACHI (HINDI) - 1:25 PM, HONEYMOON- PUNJABI (U) - 4:40 PM, UNNACHI (HINDI) - 7:30 PM, DRISHYAM2 (HINDI)- 10:45 PM. WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: DRISHYAM2 (HINDI)- 9:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 03:45 PM, 6:45 PM, 09:40 PM. WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3: OYE MAKHNA-PUNJABI (UA) - 10:15 PM, BLACK PANTHER WAKANDA FOREVER:2D (UA) (HINDI) 1:00 PM, 4:10 PM, (HINDI) - 7:20 PM, UNNACHI (HINDI)- 10:30 PM.

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SRTC employees not entitled to retiral benefits: DB

appropriate. The Writ Court in January last year after considering the rival contentions and having gone through the record, found substance in the case set up by the employees of Corporation and allowed their plea and held that they are entitled to all retiral benefits on a par with and on the analogy of section of employees of Corporation who were earlier the employees of erstwhile GTU and had opted for the services of the Corporation.

The Writ Court had also drawn analogy from the similarly situated employees of JK Industries who too had been held entitled to pensionary benefits by the Court and directed the Government to consider the request of the Corporation made through its Managing Director. The employees were also held entitled by the writ court to arrears of necessary dues as might be payable to them from the date of their retirement.

The judgment came to be challenged in an appeal and the Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal found the writ petitioner-employees are not similarly situated with the class of employees of the erstwhile GTU who were given fresh opportunity to make option in 1986.

"We are convinced that the view of the Writ Court holding the writ petitioners entitled to pensionary benefits, more particularly when the Rules and Regulations of 1979 applicable to the writ petitioners declare their service non-pensionable, is totally erroneous and unsustainable", the DB recorded.

"We also do not dispute the power of the Corporation to take an informed decision with regard to the service benefits including the post retiral benefits to be given to its employees. This would all depend upon the policy decision in this regard, to be taken by the Corporation, having regard to several factors including its financial health", read the judgment. The DB has held that the Court cannot issue a direction to the Corporation to provide or not to provide a particular service benefit as the Regulations are elaborate on the subject and the clear position

Ex-ZEO murdered, accused held

Munshi Ram of the same village near the former's residence this afternoon when he was returning from his farms.

Sources said seeing the man assaulting Babu Ram, a woman of the village who was coming behind him and a nearby shopkeeper came to his rescue but the accused also attacked them with sharp edged weapon. "Leaving the three grievously injured, the accused fled from the spot," they added.

All the three injured persons were shifted to Community Health Centre (CHC) Khour hospital where Babu Ram succumbed to his injuries while the other two injured persons namely Sita Devi and Vaneeet Kumar were referred

HC directs Cabinet Secy to form Committee to resolve Centaur issue

and directed the Cabinet Secretary to Government of India to constitute a committee comprising Secretary to Ministry of Civil Aviation, Secretary to Department of Home Affairs, and Secretary to Legal Affairs to adjudicate the dispute in question that has arisen between the Corporation and the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Justice Kumar said the effort shall be made to resolve the dispute amicably by following as far as practicable the mechanism provided under Office Memorandum dated 31.03.2020 and if the parties are aggrieved by the decision of the Committee aforesaid, it shall be open to it to file an appeal under the memo before the Cabinet Secretary whose decision, on the subject, shall be final and binding on both the parties.

"Should the Committee at its level fail to resolve the dispute between the parties for any reason whatsoever, the matter shall be referred to the Cabinet Secretary whose decision shall be final and binding on all the concerned then the Committee shall be free to put on notice any Department, Officer or official of Government of India or Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to elicit any information or record", Justice Kumar clarified.

Justice Kumar said that the Government of India through its Cabinet Secretary to constitute a Committee within a period of four weeks from the date of judgment under intimation to the disputing parties and directed the Committee to hear all the stakeholders and finalize its decision within a period of two months. "Till a final decision on the matter is taken by the Competent

employment. On the occasion, the Lt Governor initiated the functioning of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Ramban and Kishtwar districts, virtually.

With the operationalization of Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Ramban and Kishtwar today, all districts of Jammu division now have functional KVKS dedicated towards conducting quality research and ensuring extension services, he observed.

Sinha said that our integrated approach with the focus on efficient use of bio-resources for food, feed and industry will be able to tackle challenges arising out of globalization and climate change. "We are determined to transform subsistence agriculture into sustainable commercial agriculture economy with emphasis on ecosystem services and restoration & sustainable utilization of biodiversity," he added.

Earlier, the Lt Governor inaugurated the rural sports by starting tug of war competition. He also inspected the stalls installed by SKUAST-Jammu, Government departments, FPOs, startups and

PM to address 'No Money for Terror' conference today

conference on how to deal with terror financing, including legitimate and illegitimate funding routes will be attended by representatives of 75 countries and international bodies.

The participating nations will also deliberate on how to effectively enforce the standards mandated by the FATF and UN listings on terror group and terrorists.

The Home Ministry said that the hosting of this conference shows the importance being given by the Modi Government to the issue of international terrorism as well as its zero tolerance policy against this menace and having discussions on this issue in the international community.

Shah is expected to convey India's determination in its fight against terrorism as well as its support systems for achieving success against it.

Globally, countries have been affected by terrorism and militancy for several years. The pattern of violence differs in most theatres, but is largely engendered by a tumultuous geo-political environment, coupled with prolonged armed sectarian conflicts, the sources said, adding such conflicts often lead to poor governance, political instability, economic deprivation and large ungoverned spaces.

The involvement of a compliant state often exacerbates terrorism, especially its financing.

India has suffered several forms of terrorism and its financing over more than three decades, hence it understands the pain and trauma of similarly impacted nations.

The forthcoming NMFT conference will further India's efforts to build understanding and cooperation amongst nations.

According to a document paper of the conference, the discussion on global trends in terrorism and terrorist financing will cover on trends in terror financing in South Asia, evolving global terrorist threats, potential of global terrorist organizations to

Temps plummet across Kashmir

to move after snow clearance work was completed. The road had been closed for nearly four days after fresh snowfall near Pir Ki Gali.

A Meteorological Department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 1.2°C against 2.4°C the previous night. The temperature was 0.6°C above normal for the city for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.6°C against 4.7°C the previous night. The temperature was 2.8°C above normal for the town.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 3.4°C against minus 2.4°C the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal for the resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 3.1°C against 3.2°C the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the place.

1568 migrant voters in Drugmulla DDC, none in Hajin

Relief, Jammu and ARO Migrants while talking to Excelsior here today. He said the migrants can avail the option of postal ballot too and for circulation of postal ballots the last date is November 21.

He said those voters are eligible to cast the vote whose names are in voter list of 2020. All those candidates will be in race who had contested the election in 2020 except the one each in both constituencies who was declared ineligible for contesting the elections as they had entered wrong information in Form 6 and voting held in both the constituencies was

Kashmiris suffered lot; need love, relief: Rijju

been made so that perpetrators will be dealt with strictly, he said.

"Our aim is to make the law of the land very strong so that if any crime takes place whoever be the perpetrator, law will deal with them strictly," he added.

Rijju said the aim of the Government is to benefit people so that every scheme reaches people at their doorsteps. "It is being ensured that everybody gets equal rights and nobody will be spared if anybody will play mischief," he added.

Responding to a question about the Opposition's charge that the EC is acting on the directions of the Government and the BJP, Rijju said the poll panel is impartial and independent.

"Being the administrative minister incharge — the Election Commission of India reports to the Law Ministry — I want to say that the Election Commission of India is an impartial, transparent, empowered and independent body," he said.

The Government's role in the poll panel, he said, is limited to making arrangements for its smooth functioning.

Centre moves SC on release of 6 Rajiv killing convicts

despite it being a necessary party to the case.

The Government highlighted the alleged procedural lapse, saying the convicts seeking remission did not formally implead the Centre as a party which resulted in its non-participation in the case.

On November 11, the top court had ordered premature release of

"The Government provides help to the Election Commission because without Government help neither the courts can function nor any other institution. It is the duty of the Government to make arrangements so that these institutions can function but we do not make anyone dance to our tunes," he added.

He said the Election Commission is an independent body and while the Government provides help to the poll panel for smooth functioning, it does not make anyone "dance" to its tunes.

Asked when Assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, Rijju said they will be held at the right time.

"DDC elections were held in a wonderful manner and because of those elections so much good work is happening. You won't write about the development, you will only harp on about elections.

"Those elections will happen in time because the dates have not been announced yet," he said.

The Union Law Minister is in Jammu and Kashmir to attend legal camps and to review some of the Judicial facilities.

Rajouri man, others held in Hyderabad in fake gun license racket

security guards in private security firms. Using the fake All India Licenses (Rajouri based), weapons were procured from other States by these gullible youths for Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,000.

According to the police, this happened with the connivance of Venkata Konda Reddy, Regional Manager at Grace Management Security Services and I. Srinivas, a Xerox shop owner in West Marredpally.

The accused used to collect Rs

20,000 from each unemployed youngster and later deployed them in various private security agencies. Asian Security Services, Nandamuri Security & Services, Grace Management Security Services engaged security guards, who were in possession of illicit weapons, and deployed them to their clientele which includes VIPs, jewellery showrooms, agencies engaged in carrying ATM cash and as personal security guards.

six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan, who had hosted the assasin, noting the Tamil Nadu Government had recommended remission of their sentence. Besides Nalini, R P Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar walked out of the jail following the Supreme Court order. (PTI)

Farooq steps down as NC president, elections on Dec 5

fighting a just and peaceful battle for restoration of our rights, we also have to focus on public welfare. You need to render extraordinary service to people to mitigate their difficulties," he said.

The senior party leaders asked the constituency in-charges that they should be ready for elections whenever they are held. They said that there would be no pre-poll alliance as the NC has already passed resolution to this effect.

They said that the PAGD will remain there as a forum and every party will fight elections on their own. "It is for bigger cause. It is platform for fighting for restoration of Article 370 and Statehood and not any pre-poll alliance," they said.

Party vice president Omar Abdullah also addressed the gathering. He also stressed for strengthening of the party. Among others party general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, senior leaders Abdul Rahim Rather, Mubarak Gul, Shameema Firdous, Nazir Gurezji, Muhammad Syed Akhoon, Zonal Presidents Ali Muhammad Dar, Javed Dar, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Veeri, district presidents, Constituency In-Charges and other provincial office bearers were also present on the occasion.

ED Director gets one-year extension

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: The Union Government today gave a fresh one-year extension in service to ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra, according to an official order.

This is the overall the third extension given to the officer. The latest order issued by the Personnel Ministry said the 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer will be in office till November 18, 2023.

Mishra, 62, was first appointed Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a stipulated period of two years by an order on November 19, 2018.

Later, by an order dated November 13, 2020, the central government modified the appointment letter retrospectively and his two-year term was replaced by three years.

The government last year brought an ordinance mandating that the tenure of the directors of ED and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can be extended by up to three years after the mandated term of two years.

Mishra was subsequently given a one-year extension then, his second.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in tenure of Shri Sanjay Kumar Mishra, IRS (T-84006) as Director of Enforcement in the Enforcement Directorate for a period of one year beyond 18.11.2022, ie up to 18.11.2023 or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the Thursday order said.

The government had told the Supreme Court few months ago that Mishra's tenure was extended in public interest as various cases are at a crucial juncture and for their proper and expeditious disposal, it is important to ensure continuity of officers.

The finance ministry informed the top court through an affidavit that a freshly appointed person may take time to take stock and acclimatise to the working of the new organisation.

The affidavit was submitted in response to PILs filed by political leaders challenging the extension of tenure of the chief and the amended law allowing such extensions up to five years.

The apex court had on September 8 dismissed a plea challenging retrospective change in the 2018 appointment order of Mishra as the ED director, saying a reasonable period of extension can be granted to facilitate completion of ongoing investigations.

The top court had made it clear, however, that extension of tenure of officers who have attained the age of superannuation should be done in "rare and exceptional cases".

It had also made clear that no further extension can be given to Mishra as the ED director.

Under Mishra's tenure, the ED has launched probe against a number of high-profile people and politicians, including the Congress' first family members Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's husband Robert Vadra. (PTI)