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New tax regime will benefit middle-class: FM

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the new tax regime, which offers a rebate on annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh, will leave higher disposable income in the hands of people.

Replying to the discussion on Union Budget for 2023-24 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the Budget astutely balances the requirement of development imperatives within the limits of fiscal prudence.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)
Nitish returns to J&K, Gilani empanelled as ADG

JAMMU, Feb 10: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs today repatriated Nitish Kumar, an IPS officer of 1999 batch of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre (now AGMUT), to J&K.

Kumar is in the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP).

He was on Central deputation where he remained posted in the NIA and Cabinet Secretariat.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)
Yellowish snowfall in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 10: Weatherman today said that "yellowish snowfall" in North Kashmir was due to dust carried out by winds from Central parts of Pakistan and Southern Afghanistan.

There was "yellowish snowfall" in Kashmir yesterday and it was due to dust carried out by winds from central parts of Pakistan and Southern Afghanistan.

"Analysis of 2nd Generation Weather Satellite (Meteosat-9)

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)
Rajani Patil suspended

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar today suspended Congress MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil for the remainder of the current Budget Session for filming House proceedings.

Dhankhar, who had earlier in the day indicated that action would be taken against those who had filmed a ruckus during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Thursday, asked leaders of political parties to express their views on the issue.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)
Jammu-Sgr NH blocked

RAMBAN, Feb 10: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for traffic since last evening due to continuous rain and landslides at several places in Ramban sector.

Official sources said that due to felling of boulders and frequent shooting of stones at Panthiyal last evening, the highway was blocked at around 6 pm. Due to continuous rain in the sector since early morning today till 2 pm, the road was blocked at Mehar, Cafeteria Morh, Seri and some other places today.

The rain again started after 4 (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 24.3 Degree C
Min: 12.8 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 68.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 59.0 per cent
Sunset on Saturday: 06.14 p.m
Sunrise on Sunday: 07.18 a.m

SRINAGAR:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 11.8 Degree C
Min: 0.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 94.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 73.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 0.2 Degree C
Min: -8.0 Degree C

'J&K, Ladakh contributing a lot in nation's development' Winter Games will boost sports, tourism; strengthen 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat': PM

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Feb 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are contributing a lot in development of the country and 'Khelo India Winter Games' have not only boosted sports and tourism there but also strengthened 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' feeling.

In a message on the inauguration of 'Khelo India Winter Games' which were opened today in tourist resort of Gulmarg in Kashmir by Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs & Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Modi said it's good to see that whether it is business, tourism, horticulture or sports; the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are playing a major role in development of the country.

"The Khelo India Winter Games have not only encouraged sports and tourism but has also strengthened the feeling of

Khelo India will encourage players from rural areas, small cities



'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat', he said.

Saying that he was happy to learn from Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry about conduct of third edition of 'Khelo India Winter Games' in Gulmarg, the Prime Minister extended his best wishes to the players participating in 'Snow and Ice' based games in Jammu and Kashmir's snow-bound and worth watching hills.

He said success in the sports has deep relations to any country's progress and respect in the

world.

"Youth energy is very important in progress of the nation which takes the country ahead in different sectors through hard work and dedication. In such a situation, 'Khelo India' campaign is a significant step to give an excellent platform to our young talented players especially drawn from rural areas and small cities," Modi said.

Asserting that India is taking committed steps, at every stage, for encouraging players and providing them with latest sports facilities through holistic and vast approach, the Prime Minister said the country is continuously moving forward as world's rising sports power.

Modi said sports play major role in developing personalities of youth and make them committed towards hundred percent dedication to the healthy competitions.

"Adhering to sportsmanship even after achieving the success and moving forward by learning lessons from defeat, is a significant lesson to be learnt from the sports," he asserted.

The Prime Minister said he was confident that the contestants in 'Khelo India Winter Games' will play the games with hard work and devotion and open doors of unlimited opportunities for them besides making the country proud.

Modi extended best wishes to the players, coaches, organizers and sports lovers for the event.

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

In performance based transfers, Govt reshuffles 16 IAS, JKAS officers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Government today ordered performance based transfers and posting of 16 IAS and JKAS officers and assigned additional charge of the departments to two other officers.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the reshuffle in the administration was carried out keeping in view performance of the Government officers.

They said Dr Piyush Singla, Secretary in the General Administration Department (GAD) was assigned charge of prestigious Revenue department keeping in view his impressive performance in the GAD.

"Singla handled the GAD

efficiently and introduced series of reforms in the Department to benefit the common man for which he was rewarded by giving important Revenue Department," the sources said.

Similarly, they said, Vijay Kumar Vidhuri took series of measures to streamline the Revenue Department and was given charge of important post of the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

"Vidhuri introduced Revenue documents in three languages. He was also instrumental in devising Policy to put Revenue record Online," the sources said.

As per the order, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, holding additional charge of Smart Cities and pro-

posed new Jammu/Srinagar Metropolitan Regional Development, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment.

H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department will hold the charge of the post of Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, was transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Administration

Department.

Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, was appointed as Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir.

Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, shall also be Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Election Department.

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, holding additional charge of Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi, has been transferred and posted as Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department, holding additional charge of Administrative

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)



A vendor sells lotus stems on the banks of Nigeen lake in Srinagar. -Excelsior/Shakeel

Gulmarg to be centre of excellence for winter sports: LG Kashmir has changed from stone pelting to sports: Anurag

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Feb 10: Union Minister Anurag Thakur today said the situation in Kashmir has changed in the past three years with sports activities replacing the stone pelting while Lt Governor Manoj Sinha announced that Gulmarg ski resort will be the Centre of excellence for winter games.

This he said while addressing the inaugural function of the 3rd edition of Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg this morning.

The Minister said the situation has vastly changed in Jammu and Kashmir in the past

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

three years with sports activities replacing the stone pelting.

"Places where stone pelting was common, we now have sports flourishing and see budding players. If you see lights on at night, you will find Kashmiri youths practising their sports. That's how much the situation has changed in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur along with LG Manoj Sinha launch the third Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg. Another pic on page 4. -Excelsior/Shakeel

Thakur promised full support to players from Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country.

"We will continue our support to you. You need facilities, coaches or funds, we will provide it," he said.

The Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants big sports centres to come up so that sportspersons of the country can excel.

"A Sports University is coming up in Manipur and a Centre of Excellence in winter sports will soon come up in Gulmarg,"

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

All vacancies filled in Apex Court

Bindal, Kumar elevated to SC

NEW DELHI, Feb 10:

The Supreme Court will now function with its maximum strength of 34 Judges, with two High Court Chief Justices being elevated to the top court today.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju took to Twitter to announce the fresh appointments to the top court and extended his best wishes to them.

Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Justice, Allahabad HC and Justice Aravind Kumar, Chief Justice, Gujarat HC are likely to take oath as Judges of the Supreme Court in the next two days, sources aware of the process of appointing Judges to the higher judiciary said.

Once they take oath, the top court will achieve its full strength of 34 Judges, including the Chief Justice of India.

Their names were recom-



Justice Rajesh Bindal named by the Supreme Court Collegium on January 31.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued separate notifications announcing their appointments.

Last week, five judges were appointed to the Supreme Court.

While all six members of the Collegium, led by CJI DY Chandrachud, were unanimous in recommending the

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

CIC declares Shiv Khori Shrine Board as Public Authority under RTI Act

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Feb 10: In a significant order, Central Information Commission (CIC) has declared Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board as Public Authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005 and directed the Competent Authority in the Board to appoint Public Information Officer (PIO) and First Appellant Authority (FAA).

The order has been passed in the Second Appeal filed before the Commission because of denial of information by the Shrine Board to the appellant since 2019.

The appellant filed 8 RTI applications dated 01.01.2019 pertaining to Shri Shiv Khori

notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any—body owned, controlled or substantially financed; Non-Government Organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.

Shrine Board, Reasi. The Executive Officer of the Shrine Board vide letter dated 09.03.2019 intimated the appellant that no Public Information Officer (PIO) and Assistant Public Information Officer (APIO) have been appointed in Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board and the matter was discussed in the 10th Board Meeting of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, which decided that since Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board is getting no financial support from Government so there was no need to appoint PIO/APIO.

Moreover, the Board considers it to be out of the purview of the RTI Act, the Executive Officer had conveyed to the information seeker.

Though the appellant knocked the doors of the then State Information Commission yet he remained deprived of the information and accordingly he approached the Central Information Commission with Second Appeal.

Pointing towards Section 2 (h) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner Y K Sinha said that.

"Public Authority" means any authority or body or institution of self Government established or constituted by or under the Constitution; by any other law made by Parliament; by any other law made by State Legislature; by

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

UP creates new identity for itself, leads the way in driving India's growth: PM

Prabhat Ranjan Deen

LUCKNOW, Feb 10: If India is considered a 'bright spot' in the globe, Uttar Pradesh is play-

Rs 32.92 lakh cr investment proposals: Yogi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today said that the State has attracted investment proposals worth Rs 32.92 lakh crores through the roadshows for the Global Investors Summit 2023 and is ready to play the role of the growth

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023, in Lucknow on Friday. -Excelsior/Prabhat

ing a leadership role in driving India's growth, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.

Addressing the eminent entrepreneurs-investors of the

country and the world at the inaugural session of Global Investors Summit 2023 (UP GIS-2023) in Lucknow, the Prime Minister described the

state as the hope of the country and said, "Uttar Pradesh has created a new identity for itself in the last five-six years. There has

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

LONDON, Feb 10:

A review into the UK Government's scheme set up to prevent terrorism has flagged the radicalisation of UK Muslims over Kashmir and "potentially toxic" pro-Khalistan extremism as some of the areas of growing concern and made recommendations for improvements to tackle Islamist extremism as the "primary threat" to the country.

The review into the Government's counter-terrorism early intervention 'Prevent' strategy published this week warned that rhetoric from Pakistan is impacting UK Muslim communities when it comes to "inflam-

ing anti-India sentiment, particularly around the subject of Kashmir".

The review carried out by Commissioner for Public Appointments William Shawcross also warns against a false narrative being disseminated by a tiny number of pro-Khalistan groups operating in the UK.

"There is an element of crossover between those who seek to impose limits around blasphemy with those who voice incendiary rhetoric on Kashmir. I have seen evidence of UK extremist groups, as well as a Pakistani cleric with a UK following, calling for the use of violence in Kashmir. I have also seen evidence demonstrating

that flashpoints related to Kashmir lead to a significant surge in interest from UK Islamists," says Shawcross in the review.

It noted that there is no reason to believe this issue will disappear as a grievance that Islamists will seek to exploit in years to come. "This has potential relevance to Prevent, as there are examples of those convicted of terrorism offences in the UK who had first fought in Kashmir. This includes those who subsequently joined al-Qaeda."

On the issue of pro-Khalistan extremism, the report adds, "Prevent should also be mindful of pro-Khalistan extremism (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

UK review warns against anti-India rhetoric over Kashmir, Khalistan