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'Will consider public sentiment while making decision' No help to Pak to come out of economic crisis: Jaishankar

PUNE, Feb 23: External Affairs Minister Jaishankar today virtually dismissed the idea of helping Pakistan to come out of its economic mess.

Speaking at the annual Asia Economic Dialogue organised by the External Affairs Ministry here, Jaishankar said he will consider the local public sentiment while making a big decision.

tions either. In the recent past, India has helped neighbours like



Pakistan, the fundamental issue impacting the New Delhi-Islamabad ties is terrorism, Jaishankar said, adding that one must not be in denial of this problem.

"No country is ever going to come out of a difficult situation and become a prosperous power if its basic industry is terrorism.

"I would have a pulse (on) what do my people feel about it. And I think you know the answer," he said.

Pakistan is grappling with an economic crisis and has not been successful in getting an agreement from multilateral institu-

Sri Lanka as it struggled to come out of its economic woes and regularly helps others in the neighbourhood as well.

However, when it comes to

country has to fix its political issues too, a country has to fix its social issues," he said without naming Pakistan.

Govt directive on B2V4 Prog

JAMMU, Feb 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Government today directed all Administrative Secretaries to review performance of Prabhari Officers of their departments and ensure uploading of 'Back To Village-IV' (B2V4) reports.



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'Put Property Tax on hold' Will re-enact Roshni Act if voted to power: Azad

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Feb 23: Former Chief Minister and head of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Ghulam Nabi Azad today said if voted to power, he will re-implement the Roshni scheme.

given to the occupants. Azad said that he passed the bill in the Assembly to benefit people of J&K. "I promise to you that if my party is elected to

Azad told reporters in Anantnag that the anti-encroachment drive to retrieve land given to people under the Act should be stopped. "If we form the Government, then we will implement the Roshni scheme once again."

He said that if he is voted to power again in J&K, he will bring back the Roshni Act under which the ownership rights were

power, we will re-enact the Roshni Act in the Assembly," he told people in his address.

"Today, notices are being served, the land is being retrieved. I had passed the bill of Roshni in the Assembly keeping in mind the poverty of the people here. Be it Hindus, Muslims, Kashmiris, Gujjar-Bakerwals, they possessed lands for over

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Central schemes made tangible change in development profile of J&K: Yadav

UDHAMPUR, Feb 23: Union Minister for Environment, Forest, Climate Change and Labour and Employment, Bhpender Yadav said that different Centrally Sponsored Schemes have made a tangible change



Union Minister for Environment and Forest Bhpender Yadav during his visit to Udhampur on Thursday.

Yadav said that different Centrally Sponsored Schemes have made a tangible change

2 IPS officers posted in J&K

JAMMU, Feb 23: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today ordered posting of two IPS officers of AGMUT cadre to Jammu and Kashmir.

They are Divya D and Deepika of 2018 batch.

Presently, Divya D was posted in Delhi and Deepika in Puducherry.

Man injured in blast

SRINAGAR, Feb 23: A man was injured in a mysterious blast in Warpora area in Sopore

A man suffered injuries in

in the development profile of J&K.

While addressing the gathering after inaugurating a mega job fair cum awareness programme at Udhampur today, the Union Minister made a mention of successful implementation of several vital schemes in the UT and said that Jammu and Kashmir was witnessing unprecedented growth and development under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

He congratulated the Lieutenant Governor and his

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Groom brings bride's 'Doli' in chopper

KATHUA, Feb 23: Creating a sort of history, a village youth from Flote in Barnoti block of Kathua district who solemnized his marriage in neighboring Punjab State surprised and astonished everyone in his native village after the groom along with his bride alighted from a specially hired chopper in the village today.

Hundreds of villagers gathered to watch Paras Mehta and his bride Smiley alighting from the helicopter after its landing at a specially setup helipad here, in what turned into a gala event.

Amid bursting of crackers and beats of dholaks, villagers and groom's relatives welcomed

Rural, Urban Local Bodies may get increased grants Two high-level meetings in March 1st week before presentation of J&K budget by FM

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Feb 23: Annual budget of Jammu and Kashmir for next financial year of 2023-24 will be presented in second half of Parliament session beginning March 13 with March 16 and 17 being projected as tentative dates. Presentation of budget will be preceded by two high-level meetings which are likely to be chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Finance Secretary.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Finance Department of Jammu and Kashmir Government is almost ready with the budgetary pro-

posals which will be discussed by the Finance Secretary followed by the Finance Minister with top UT officials in New Delhi in first week of March before presentation of the budget.

"Dates tentative scheduled for presentation of the budget are March 16 and 17," sources said. However, they added that the budget presentation could be changed if the Opposition persists with disruptions on the issues which they took up in first part of budget session.

First part of budget session ended on February 13 amidst repeated disruptions on Adani

issue and will resume on March 13 after month-long break.

Sources said a day each are likely to be fixed for discussion on Jammu and Kashmir budget in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The budget has to be approved by the Parliament before March 31.

Already the Finance Department officials have held series of meetings with top officials in the Union Finance Ministry to discuss budgetary proposals of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

"The proposals will be given final touch in two meetings by



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PROPERTY TAX : TRUTH & FACTS

- Tax Rates in J&K is one of the lowest in the country
- Tax to be levied annually and not monthly
- Tax Implication is linked with Stamp Duty Rates
- Tax collected shall be deposited in the Bank Account of the concerned Municipality
- Tax collected to be utilized by Municipalities for improving infrastructure/services in the Town
- Houses and Apartments up to 1000 sqft, Agricultural land EXEMPTED
- Tax is progressive in nature with minimal implications to small households and businesses
- All places of worship, including temples, masjids, gurudwaras, churches, ziarats and Cremation / Burial Grounds EXEMPTED

ANNUAL RATES OF PROPERTY TAX ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Property	Municipal Corporations of Jammu/ Srinagar	Municipal Councils of Jammu/Kashmir	Municipal Committees of Jammu/ Kashmir	Chandigarh	Delhi	Ludhiana
Residential House/Flat upto 1000 Sqft	0	0	0	600-1000	300-7000	150-3500
Flat/Apartment 1500 Sqft	100-1150	75-600	50-300	900-1500	500-10000	300-10000
Residential Independent House 2000 Sqft	225-2500	150-1200	100-400	1200-2000	650-14000	400-13000
Residential Independent Kothi 4500 Sqft	600-7500	200-3000	100-1000	3000-5100	1400-31000	800-25000

ANNUAL RATES OF PROPERTY TAX ON COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Property	Municipal Corporations of Jammu/ Srinagar	Municipal Councils of Jammu/Kashmir	Municipal Committees of Jammu/Kashmir	Chandigarh	Delhi	Ludhiana
Small Shop 100 Sqft	50-600	30-600	20-100	200-650	275-3500	275-3500
Small Shop 200 Sqft	150-1800	100-600	75-300	400-1300	550-7000	550-7000
Medium shop 1000 Sqft	1200-14000	300-3000	120-900	1900-6500	2800-37000	1100-35000

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