

Reconsider imposing property tax in J&K, leave decision for elected Govt: Azad

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 24: Democratic Progressive Azad Party Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad today said the Jammu and Kashmir administration should

"It was vetted by the Law department and the Cabinet, it was then discussed in the assembly -- it was a coalition Government of many parties -- and the opposition parties also voted for it and the law was enacted," he said.

like Vigilance and courts to see whether there is anyone who has misused the scheme through corruption or something else.

"About 10 per cent of the people will always misuse any scheme. Hang them but you cannot end the scheme for the 90 per cent," he added.

It is not the right of the current administration in Jammu and Kashmir to impose the property tax, Azad said.

"It is the right of an elected Government. Governor's rule -- whether in the Congress or the BJP -- is temporary and not permanent. There have to be elections and an elected Government has to take such decisions," he said.

However, he added, even if there was an elected Government, including his party's, it would be impossible to impose taxes in the current situation.

"I will also think 10 times about imposing taxes even as I need taxes for development. The state of Jammu and Kashmir has been bearing militancy for the last 33 years. It has cost many lives, unemployment has risen and is more than 10 times than in the rest of the country," he said.

The former Congress leader said the Government should not feel bad and roll back the decision to impose property tax.

"Even if there is any other Government in place, it should not consider imposing this tax for five to six years. Ultimately, the people have to pay this tax. But first, the Government should make the people (be) able to pay tax. There is no developmental work going on, our economic situation is worse... Let our tourism, horticulture, handicraft (sectors) get stabilised first," Azad added.



Former J&K CM, Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing workers at party headquarters in Srinagar on Friday. - Excelsior/Shakeel

reconsider its decision of imposing property tax in the Union Territory and leave such decisions for an elected Government.

"I request the Government to reconsider this issue and leave it for the elected Government," Azad told reporters at the party's office in Sonwar here.

There have been no elections in Jammu and Kashmir for nine years and the people have been waiting for the conduct of elections for all this time so that such decisions are taken by an elected Government, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

"Unfortunately, the laws framed by the elected Governments in the assemblies are being revoked. My Government framed the Roshni Act. I did not frame it in my home.

Once an assembly or the Parliament frames a law, it cannot be revoked like this or by a Governor, Azad added.

He said the revocation of the Act affected about 70 per cent of the people in Jammu as well as Kashmir, Hindus as well as Muslims.

Acknowledging that there could be loopholes in the scheme's implementation, the former Union minister questioned which schemes in the country or the world could be implemented 100 per cent in the right manner.

"It is not the Cabinet or the assembly that implements it on the ground. There are many levels -- right from the patwari to the secretary -- and there can be some misuse. But there are commissions



MD and CEO of J&K Bank Baldev Prakash receiving award from Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at New Delhi.

J&K Bank wins top award at MSME Banking Excellence Awards

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 24: J&K Bank has emerged winner as Best MSME Bank, MSME Friendly Bank, Government Schemes Implementing Bank, Best Branding Bank and Best Bank for Implementing COVID Schemes at a function of MSME Banking Excellence Awards - 2022 that was organized by Delhi-based Chamber of Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CIMSME).

Accompanied by General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen and Zonal Head (Delhi) Rakesh Magotra, Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash received the prestigious award at the hands of chief guest and Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat under 'Private Bank' category at a high profile event held last evening in New Delhi. Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner Union Ministry of MSME Dr Rajneesh and president (CIMSME) Mukesh Mohan Gupta were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Prakash said, "It is really a momentous occasion for us to have been conferred with all these prestigious awards under different categories of excellence at the hands of union minister in presence of bankers and industry notables from across the country. And I feel proud to attribute this achievement to the entire J&K Bank family, whose everyday efforts on ground continue to be recognized and rewarded at prestigious platforms in the country."

Earlier, MD and CEO asserted that as a responsible financial institution, J&K Bank understands that MSME sector plays a critical role in fostering entrepreneurship and generating huge employment opportu-

nities by complementing the larger industry and is vital to the entire eco-system.

He also shared the recent success story of J&K Government's flagship programs, wherein effective financial intervention by the banks operating across the UT with overwhelming participation of J&K Bank generated employments benefiting 75000 people.

Highlighting the Bank's role further in promoting the inclusive and sustainable growth of economy through its effective financial intermediation with special emphasis on MSME sector, he said, "Such an assertion is evidenced by the fact that not only did we surpass the mandated Priority Sector Lending target of 40% by recording 45.19% achievement during the Financial Year 21-22, but we also recorded an achievement of 13.58% under lending to Micro Enterprises - almost double the regulatory stipulation of 7.5%."

He further said, "Being proactive in mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on our borrowers, so far we have provided incremental credit of Rs 2240 crore under various Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) schemes announced by the Central Government to around 43000 customers - across all sectors and segments."

India's bioeconomy to reach 300 billion USD by 2030: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 24: India's bioeconomy is poised to reach 300 billion USD (US Dollar) by 2030 and with its rising innovation and scientific temper, India is set to join the global wave of a new industrial revolution.

This was stated here today by 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 while speaking as chief guest at the "National Consultation Meeting on Bio-manufacturing to build a Draft Policy Framework on Bio-manufacturing".

The Minister said, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to enable Circular-Bio-economy by advancing High-Performance Bio-manufacturing in the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) envisages to bring together scientific and technological advancement towards achieving a major goal of the Department's vision of BioE3 (i.e. Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) for green, clean and prosperous India.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India envisions "Green Growth" in the ensuing 'AmritKaal' and this calls for a systematic framework plan for implementation of robust innovative bio-based eco-friendly solutions to further boost the ongoing economic growth of our nation. Additionally, "Mission LIFE" i.e., 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LIFE)' launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20th October, 2022 urges us to put forward green and friendly environmental solutions in every aspect of life to effectively achieve climate and energy goals, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh also added that this program will strengthen



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking at "National Consultation Meeting on Bio-manufacturing to build a Draft Policy Framework on Bio-manufacturing", at New Delhi on Friday.

'Make in India' by supporting domestic manufacturing (Industry 4.0), as it will support building green infrastructure for bio-manufacturing across the country. Moreover, it will also lead to development of a skilled workforce in the domain of Bio-manufacturing, a surge in job creation and entrepreneurship especially in 2- and 3-tier cities and streamline policies and regulations for Biogenic products to expand market opportunities. It will provide new opportunities for revenue generation to chemical businesses by manufacturing high-quality, recyclable goods from renewable resources, the Minister informed.

In his address, Secretary, DBT, Dr Rajesh Gokhale said, India is the world's 3rd largest importer of crude oil and the 4th largest importer of liquefied natural gas, a large part of which is used in the chemical industrial manufacturing. He also added that burning of hydrocarbons, the major constituent of fossil fuels, releases CO2 as a major by-product, contributing substantially to global warming.

Dr. Alka Sharma, Senior Advisor Department of Biotechnology (DBT) underlined that through this approach, an innovative 'plug and play' model of manufacturing for Industry 4.0 is being proposed. She said, the backbone of this initiative comprises advanced tools of biotechnology including synthetic biology, genome editing, metabolic engineering, etc.

Dr. Vaishali Panjabi, senior scientist in the DBT said, while presenting an "Overview of the Biomufacturing Program" that it has the potential to provide an alternative to traditional petrochemical-based manufacturing through manufacture of biogenic products such as food additives, biopharmaceuticals, biogenic dyes, bulk chemicals, animal feed products, flavours/fragrances, biomaterials, Agri-bio product, etc. using sugar-based microbial fermentation and other sustainable biomass/waste resource-based manufacturing methods.

Lt Gen Reen takes over as DG, Army Hqrs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 24: Son of the soil, Lt Gen RS Reen, has taken over as Director General at Army Hqrs in Delhi.

Lt Gen Reen hails from Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir. His ancestral village is Gohan in Baramulla and is first from the Valley and from the community to rise to the rank of Lt Gen from his area. The General Officer has done his education from Kashmir only.

Lt Gen Reen is an alumnus of St Joseph High School, Baramulla and has graduated in Electrical Engineering from

National Institute of Technology, Srinagar.

The General Officer belongs to a respectable family from Baramulla.

His father Late Professor Sajan Singh was an alumnus of Banaras Hindu University and did his post-graduation in Physics in late 50s. He was the first from his community to do post-graduation in Physics. The General Officer's mother Mahinder Pal Kour is an alumnus

of Punjabi University, Patiala and has been Principal of various Higher Secondary Schools in Kashmir Valley and had a long academic career of nearly 40 years. The General officer's wife Satbir Kour, is also from Baramulla and works as an officer in LIC.

The General Officer is an alumnus of Indian Military Academy. He is a subject matter expert in the field of Quality Assurance. Prior to being Director General, he was Addl Director General at Delhi and has held various prestigious appointments in his career spanning over 37 years.



Lt Gen RS Reen, Director General at Army Hqrs in Delhi.

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RATES OF SOLAR POWER PLANTS IN THE UT OF J&K

Project Capacity	Project Cost	J&K UT Subsidy	MNRE Subsidy	Beneficiary Share	Net Subsidy %
1 kW	₹58,739	₹14,685	₹23,496	₹20,558	65
2 kW	₹1,07,990	₹26,998	₹43,196	₹37,796	65
3 kW	₹1,57,781	₹39,445	₹63,112	₹55,224	65
4 kW	₹2,05,236	₹51,309	₹71,833	₹82,094	60
5 kW	₹2,56,545	₹64,136	₹82,094	₹1,10,315	57
6 kW	₹3,07,854	₹76,964	₹92,356	₹1,38,534	55
7 kW	₹3,59,163	₹89,791	₹1,02,618	₹1,66,754	53.6
8 kW	₹4,10,472	₹1,02,618	₹1,12,142	₹1,94,974	52.5
9 kW	₹4,61,781	₹1,15,445	₹1,23,142	₹2,23,194	51.7
10 kW	₹5,13,090	₹1,28,273	₹1,33,403	₹2,51,414	51

Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA)

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