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Satish Kaushik dies at 66

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, Mar 9:

Actor-filmmaker Satish Kaushik, whose comic timing in classics such as "Mr India" and "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro" is still remembered, died of a heart attack while he was on his way (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

***Watch video on**
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Farooq calls All Party Meet tomorrow

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah has called All Party Meeting (APM) at his residence here on March 11 to discuss prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

All major political parties are being extended an invitation (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

438 passengers of Kargil airlifted

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Mar 9: A total of 438 stranded passengers of Kargil were airlifted today from Jammu and Srinagar in Indian Air Force Aircrafts on the requisition of UT Ladakh Administration.

Officials informed that 165 passengers were airlifted from Jammu to Kargil in four sorties of AN-32 and 13 passengers from Kargil to Jammu. (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

HC quashes 3 PSAs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 9: The High Court has quashed three detention orders passed under Public Safety Act (PSA) and directed for their release.

Justice V C Koul while hearing three separate petitions quashed the detention orders of Waseem Ahmad Pandith of Karimabad, Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh of Kandoora Beerwah and Ghulam Mohammad Waza (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

PCCF given charge of Chairman JKPC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: The J&K UT Government today assigned the charge of the post of Chairman, J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K, Dr Mohit Gera.

Official sources said that post of the Chairman JKPC, (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

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**‘They are building future, making J&K shine’
Instead of stones, misled youth now have sports kits in their hands: LG**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said many youth who were misled and given stones, today have sports kits in their hands and are building new future for themselves.

He was addressing a function on concluding day of the LG's Rolling Trophy at MA Stadium here.

"Many youth who were misled and handed over stones in their hands, today have hockey sticks, cricket bats, tennis and badminton rackets in their hands," Sinha said.

He said such youth are true champions of their lives and are not only building new future for themselves but are also making Jammu and Kashmir shine.

"Three years back under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir took pledge to win over all crisis and problems," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Earlier, Sinha on concluding day of the LG's Rolling Trophy congratulated the players and winning team and urged them to continue to do their best to bring glory to the sports fraternity.



LG Manoj Sinha addressing a function on closing ceremony of LG's Rolling Trophy at MA Stadium in Jammu on Thursday.

He said, the LG's Rolling Trophy is an important initiative of the Mission Youth that aims to strengthen the roots of sports culture. The tournament enabled our players to demonstrate excellence on the field and promoted pride, camaraderie and the spirit

of sportsmanship, he added.

"More than 42,000 players competed with the spirit of peace, friendship, equality, and respect. The players with their skill and endurance on the play-

world class coaching to the sportspersons.

"Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, we have created new infrastructures for the players in far-flung areas. It is being ensured that the youth living in villages get modern facilities and mentoring," said the Lt Governor.

He observed that the key to vibrant sports culture lies in the effective combination of talent hunt, mentoring and suitable platform. Not only we want to feed our sports culture with a steady stream of young talents, but we also want to inculcate sporting excellence and skill in our youth, he added.

"Sports build character, infuse values of team spirit and bring diverse communities together. We are resolute to extend all possible support, facilities and resources to the sportspersons to safeguard their future and make their dreams come true", the Lt Governor observed.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to provide modern facilities and

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People walk in a mustard field at Mendhar. — Excelsior/Rahi Kapoor

**FM to present it next week, likely on opening day
J&K budget finalized by Finance Ministry in consultations with Admn**

Sanjeev Pargal

6-month long extensive exercise over

JAMMU, Mar 9: Annual budget of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2023-24 has been finalized by the Union Finance Ministry and it is likely to be presented in Lok Sabha on opening day of the session on March 13 when the Parliament resumes after one-month break. However, presentation of the budget can be delayed by a couple of days if there is uproar in the Parliament by the Opposition parties.

"In any case, the budget will be presented next week," officials told the Excelsior.

They said the budget has been given final touches by the Union Finance Ministry in consultations with Finance Department of Jammu and Kashmir and it is now almost ready for presentation in the Parliament.

"If everything goes well, the budget is likely to be presented in the Parliament on opening day of the session after one-month long break i.e. March 13. The delay of couple of days can occur if the Opposition disrupts the Parliament as expected on a host of issues," the officials said.

They added that on their part both the Finance Ministry as well as Jammu and Kashmir administration have completed nearly six-month long exercise for preparation of the budget. The exercise has concluded and the budget is ready for presentation, they said, adding it will be fourth straight budget of Jammu and Kashmir which will be presented in the Parliament in the absence of Legislative Assembly in the Union Territory. Annual budgets of J&K for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 were also presented in the Parliament.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present Jammu and Kashmir's budget in Lok Sabha. Then, it will be debated in both Houses of the Parliament. The budget has to be approved before March 31 and it will come into force on April 1.

Sources said a day each are likely to be fixed for discussion on Jammu and Kashmir budget in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. 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. Prior to this, the Finance Department held series of meetings with various departments to know their requirements in the budget for next financial year.

This will be fourth consecutive budget of Jammu and Kashmir which will be presented in the Parliament in the absence of Legislative Assembly in the Union Territory. Annual budgets of J&K for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 were also presented in the Parliament.

The budget for 2019-2020 was adopted by the then State Administrative Council (SAC) here while budget of 2018-19 was last to be presented in the Assembly of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir by then Finance Minister Dr Haseeb Drabu before the Government collapsed after withdrawal of support to Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition Government by the BJP in June 2018 followed by withdrawal of special status of erstwhile State of J&K on August 5, 2019 by the Central Government and its bifurcation (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

ED carries out raids at Hurriyat leaders' houses, others in selling of MBBS seats

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 9: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today carried out raids at 10 places, including at the houses of Hurriyat leaders, in a case linked to "selling" of MBBS seats in Pakistan to Kashmiri students.

The raids were conducted at the houses of Qazi Yasir in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement chairman Zaffar Bhat in Bagh-e-Mehtab area here, and Mohammad Iqbal

Khawja in Mattan area of Anantnag.

The officials said the personnel from the Central probe agency along with the Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted



Security personnel stand guard as ED searches a house in Anantnag on Thursday. — Excelsior/Sajad Dar

simultaneous raids at the three locations. The raids were carried out in connection with the case related to "selling" of MBBS seats in Pakistan to Kashmiri students and using the money to support and fund terrorism, they said.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in a statement

admission of J&K students in various professional courses including MBBS in Pakistan based colleges, institutions and universities.

The professional course seats were sold to students with the motive to fund militancy in different ways on the instructions of Pakistan based handlers as well as those sitting in Srinagar.

Also tuition fee and living expenses of the students were being paid by such elements in Pakistan in return for which they received money in Indian currency which was again being used for funding militancy.

"During the course of search, highly incriminating material and digital devices related to the scam, has been recovered and seized," it said. (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

**‘UAPA cases be dealt with more efficiently’
Take stringent action against OGWs, harbourers of terrorists: DGP**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Director General of Police Dilbag Singh today directed officers to take stringent action against harbourers and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of terrorists to end terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also said the UAPA cases should be dealt more efficiently and professionally.

"Neutralising a terrorist is not enough unless all those involved in harbouring and supporting him are identified and brought to justice," Singh said.

He was addressing a meeting of the Kashmir Zone officers at the Police Headquarters here.

The meeting was among others attended by Additional

Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, Deputy Inspector Generals of Police (South, Central and North Kashmir), Deputy Inspector General, Special Investigation Unit (SIU), and all district Superintendents of Police through video-conferencing, a police spokesman said.

The police chief directed that stringent action be taken against the Over Ground workers and others providing any kind of support to terrorists.

"Property of accused to be seized under law and absconding accused to be declared as

proclaimed offender besides initiating action under law," the DGP said.

The meeting, which was also attended personally by ADGP (Coordination), Police Headquarters, Danesh Rana and IGP (CIV), Police Headquarters, B S Tuti and other officers, reviewed the progress of under investigation cases besides taking stock of cases under trial, the spokesman said.

"The main objective of the meeting was to re-examine and discuss the directions already issued by the Police Headquarters regarding investigation of cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)," the DGP said. (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

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**Panel of officers assigned task of making recommendations
H&UDD to remove provisions prescribing imprisonment for minor violations from Acts**

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 9: In a people friendly initiative, the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) has set into motion an exercise to remove provisions from the Acts and Rules which prescribe imprisonment of the citizens for minor violations and main focus will be on the laws governing the functioning of the Municipal Corporations, Councils and Committees across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Housing and Urban Development Department has noticed that there are several provisions in the different Acts

and Rules particularly Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act and Municipal Act, 2000 which prescribe imprisonment to the citizens for minor violations of these laws.

"The department, as a people friendly initiative, has made up its mind to replace these provisions and make changes prescribing only imposition of fine for such violations", sources said, adding "in order to have a detailed report in this regard the department has constituted a committee of officers with the direction to submit recommen-

dations within the shortest possible time-frame".

The committee headed by Anil Kaul, Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department, has been asked to review the Acts/Rules pertaining to the department and identify provisions that are to be removed/retained or decriminalized so as to eliminate the risk of imprisonment of citizens for minor violations.

The other members of the committee are Pardeep Singh Thakur, Senior Law Officer and Kashif Altaf Bhat, Under

Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department.

On the receipt of the recommendations from the committee the Housing and Urban Development Department will hold consultations with the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and thereafter the matter will be placed before the Administrative Council headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for approval and issuance of notifications regarding amendments.

"The main focus will be on Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act and Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 which governs the functioning of all

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

**Slams Rahul over LS microphone comment
VP releases Karan Singh's book on Mundaka Upanishad**

NEW DELHI, Mar 9:

Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar today attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his comments regarding microphones being turned off in Parliament, and said he would be on the "wrong side" of the Constitution if he stayed silent on the issue.

Speaking at an event to launch veteran Congress leader and former Parliamentarian Karan Singh's book on the Mundaka Upanishad, Dhankhar spoke extensively on the former Congress president's remarks made in London. "The world is applauding our



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar releases the book on Mundaka Upanishad written by Parliamentarian Dr Karan Singh at Upa-Kashtrapati Nivas in New Delhi on Thursday. historic accomplishments and functional, vibrant democracy. Some amongst us, including Parliamentarians, in overdrive are engaged in thoughtless,

ASP, DySP attached for corruption

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 9: Additional Superintendent of Police Bandipora and a Deputy Superintendent of Police were attached today by the Government on charges of corruption, blackmailing and extortion, a senior police officer told Excelsior.

Home department today ordered for attachment of Additional Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ashiq Hussain Tak, with immediate effect.

"In the interest of administration, Ashiq Hussain Tak, Addl. Superintendent of Police, Bandipora, is hereby attached with the Police Headquarters, J&K, with immediate effect", read an order.

The official said that the order was issued after a communication (U.O. No. PHQ/CIV/1069 dated 08-03-2023) sent by

Director General of Police J&K to the Home Department regarding the establishment of allegations of extortion against the officer.

The official further said that the ASP along with some of his subordinates resorted to extortion in a Bandipora area after a Central agency conducted raids there regarding some investigations into a case.

He said that the victims narrated the agency about the incident which took up the issue with the top most level in Jammu and Kashmir. "Later an internal inquiry was conducted by the Police Headquarters which established the allegations levelled against the officer and its report was sent to the Home Department yesterday," he added.

In another order, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, attached till further orders, a Deputy Superintendent of Police after "professional misconduct" against him.

Deputy Superintendent of Police after "professional misconduct" against him.

"In view of some allegations of professional misconduct, Adil Mushtaq DySP KPS-155772 (SDPO Nowgam) is hereby attached with the office of Special DG Crime, J&K till further orders," read an order by the DGP.

"Sumit Kumar Sharma, KPS-185679, DySP PC Srinagar in addition to his own shall look after the assignment of SDPO Nowgam," the order added.

The official said that there were multiple complaints of corruption and extortion against the officer for last many years. He said that the officer was nailed down when documentary proof about corruption and videographic evidence against blackmailing and extortion was produced against him. (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

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