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Omar visits fire-ravaged village, tells victims they aren't alone in this difficult time

reporters in the village. Abdullah, who took over as the first chief minister of the Union Territory on October 16, said though the administration had already provided some sort of relief to the victims, he had passed directions for enhancing the relief.

"We have also initiated steps to seek relief from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and are hoping to get the same. Additionally, we will also try to provide more relief," the chief minister said.

Abdullah said the administration was also contemplating about providing them help under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) so that they can raise their burnt structures again.

"It is my duty to reconstruct their homes," he said and added, "Homes will be rebuilt along with concrete bathrooms."

Abdullah, who assumed office on October 16, said he had not come to the village for politics. "I have not come here for the sake of politics. We have to pull out the people from this destruction and we will be doing that," he asserted.

He met with the affected families, offering them his condolences and assuring them immediate relief, and long-term support to help them rebuild their lives.

"We are here to help you rebuild your lives. The district administration has already provided initial relief, and I have ordered additional support," he added.

In a bid to prevent similar incidents in the future, Abdullah announced the establishment of two new fire service stations in Warwan and Marwah areas. Additionally, he announced the construction of a proper road leading to the villages, ensuring better access and reducing the risk of fire-related disasters in the remote area.

"Our focus is on both immediate relief and long-term solutions. We must ensure that such tragedies are not repeated," the chief minister emphasised.

Forces committed to dismantle terror ecosystem: LG

terminated to dismantle terror ecosystem. "Our security forces and police are committed to completely neutralise terror groups and terror ecosystem sponsored by the neighbouring country," he said and added, "At the same time, we will ensure that families targeted by terrorists and who were left behind are provided with all the assistance, support and their rights are protected."

It may be mentioned that the Pak-sponsored terrorists in the past three decades of terrorism have killed several innocents in bomb blasts and firing incidents just to spread terror and disrupt peace. While several of these terrorists were neutralised by security forces, Pakistan keeps on infiltrating more terrorists into the Indian territory.

Probe ordered against MLA for 'disrespecting' National Anthem

of the National Anthem," police posted on X without naming anyone as the accused.

"A preliminary inquiry by an SP-rank officer under Section 173 (3) of the BNSS has been initiated, and electronic evidence is being analysed for further course of legal action," police said.

Sonawari MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, who was seen seated when the National Anthem was played, said he had risen for the national anthem but had to sit down due to a medical condition. "I had to sit down as I could not stand for too long due to my back ache," he said.

"Why does anyone think that I will disrespect the national anthem after having taken an oath under the Indian constitution?" he asked.

AEE arrested in graft case

leging therein that he is demanding a commission of 2 pc as bribe from him for processing his current bill as well as on previous bills cleared by him," officials said.

"It was alleged by the contractor that he was executing a work titled Construction of Lecture Block G+2 of GDC, Sopore, under the supervision of PWD R&B division A, Sopore, for which CC 8th bill was prepared & checked by the concerned JE but when he approached Ganie for further processing his bill for payments, he demanded 2 pc commission as bribe on current bill as well as on previous bills checked /cleared by him," officials said.

"The complainant further alleged that AEE is refusing to process his bill further unless his commission @2% is paid by complainant [contractor] to him, as complainant was not interested in paying bribe to AEE, under these circumstances complainant approached ACB with his written complaint and requested for legal action against AEE Mubarak Ahmad Ganie for demanding commission 2% from him and for not processing his pending bill for payments without receiving said 2% commission," the statement said.

"On receipt of the complaint, the allegations were verified discreetly by the Anti Corruption Bureau. The complaint and subsequent discreet verification report prima facie discloses commission of offence punishable under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) on the part of Sh Mubarak Ahmad Ganie, AEE PWD (R&B) Division Sopore, District Bara-

mulla."

"Accordingly a case FIR No 13-2024 under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) was registered against Sh Mubarak Ahmad Ganie, AEE PWD (R&B) Division Sopore, District Baramulla at PS ACB Baramulla & investigations were put into motion. During investigation, a trap team headed by Dy.SP rank officer was constituted at PS ACB Baramulla. The team laid a successful trap and accused AEE was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 25000/- from contractor [complainant] at PWD R&B office sopore District Baramulla on 16-10-2024. Accordingly, after completing all legal formalities the accused AEE was arrested on the spot. The bribe money of Rs 25000/- was also recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses, beside this during his personal search some cash was also recovered from his possession which is subject matter of further investigations."

"Subsequently residential house as well as official accommodation of the accused was also searched following due process laid down under law, during which incriminating documents were recovered & seized in presence of magistrate & independent witnesses. Meanwhile as mandated under law, the accused AEE was presented before the court of special judge anti-corruption court, Baramulla, and was remanded for 9 days police custody. Further investigation of the instant case is going on," the statement added.

SC to consider hearing plea for restoration of statehood to J&K

riod, the petitioner said. "The formation of the Legislative Assembly before the restoration of statehood would violate the idea of federalism, which forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India," the plea said.

It said that the Valley always had a federal relationship with the Union of India. Thus, it is of utmost importance that the status of statehood is restored "so that they can enjoy an autonomy in their individual identity and also play an important part in the overall development of the Country."

The plea further said, the general elections were also held without any such incidence or violence from April 19, 2024 to May 20, 2024.

It was also submitted that Jammu and Kashmir will also soon to hold Panchayat elections, in the coming months which shall also be conducted smoothly and in peaceful circumstances. Therefore, there is no impediment of security concerns, violence or any other disturbances which would hinder or prevent the grant/restoration of the status of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as had been assured by the Union of India in the present proceedings.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court had unanimously upheld the revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, in 2019 and ordered that assembly elections be held there by September 2024. The court had also said that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should be restored "at the earliest".

Jitendra inaugurates India's first 'Airport Air Quality Monitor'

indigenous indoor solar cells developed by CSIR-NIIST, crafted from locally available materials.

While addressing 300 SC/ST farmers and artisans meet who are beneficiaries of different projects spearheaded by Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council-Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (BRIC-RGCB) and Swadeshi Science Movement-Kerala (SSM-K) in an event later, at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology campus, Thiruvananthapuram, the Union Minister said that time has come for India to lead in the biotechnology sector.

The Union Minister said that India is now preparing for the next industrial revolution, and initiatives like Bio E3 policy will help for that. It is time for India to rise globally with primary emphasis given to biotechnology, space, agriculture sectors.

Dr Singh further said that it is time to creatively think how to add value for the products cultivated by our farmers. Union Minister also described Thiruvananthapuram as the science capital of India.

The Union Minister, while attending the event, released two books published as part of Science Heritage Project. The minister also launched six community projects under the Tribal Heritage Project of BRIC-RGCB and felicitated award winning farmers in the event. RGCB Director Chandrabhas Narayan, who presided over the function, handed over a memento to the Union Minister.

Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Maraleedharan, VSSC Director, Dr. S Unnikrishnan, CSIR- NIIST Director C. Anandharamakrishnan, Swadeshi Science Movement-Kerala (SSM-K) President Sri.K Muraleedharan, Swadeshi Science Movement-Kerala (SSM-K) Secretary, Rajeev C Nair, were also present.

Govt revises DA of employees, pensioners

sion/family pension from October 2024 onwards." "The payment on account of Dearness Allowance involving a fraction of 50 paisa and above shall be rounded to the next higher rupee and the fraction of less than 50 paisa shall be ignored," says the order.

IAS officers transferred, posted

Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir, Y V V J Rajasekhar from Delhi to Arunachal Pradesh and Nidhi Malik from Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir.

More transfers and postings in civil & police administrations were expected in near future.

Hamas chief killed: Netanyahu

instructed his aides to inform the families of Israeli hostages about the death of the Hamas chief.

Earlier today, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed that three terrorists have been killed during its operations in Gaza, among whom was Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar, who has now been confirmed dead.

IDF shared a post on X and wrote, "During IDF operations in Gaza, 3 terrorists were eliminated. The IDF and ISA are checking the possibility that one of the terrorists was Yahya Sinwar."

This development comes weeks after Israel killed another high-profile leader, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, through airstrikes in Lebanon.

Earlier, another senior Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, died in Iran. Though Tehran and Hamas have accused Israel of the attack, Israel has neither accepted nor denied the charge.

Recently, the IDF eliminated several high-ranking Hamas officials, including Rawhi Mushtaha, Head of the Hamas government in Gaza, and Sameh al-Siraj, who held the security portfolio in Hamas' political bureau.

On Tuesday, the IDF said some 20 Hamas operatives were killed in airstrikes and close-quarters combat in Jabaliya over the past day, the Times of Israel reported.

Troops also located and destroyed a weapons depot and other weapons amid the fighting, according to the military.

"The operation will continue as long as necessary, while systematically striking and thoroughly destroying the terror infrastructure in the area," the military said.

On Monday, the IDF called on Palestinians in northern Gaza's Beit Hanoun, Jabaliya, and Beit Lahiya to evacuate to the Israeli-designated humanitarian zone in the Strip's south, as per the Times of Israel.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the IDF and Shin Bet security agency said that three Hamas terrorists who participated in the October 7 onslaught were killed in airstrikes in recent days.

HC to hear plea against LG's power to nominate 5 MLAs

Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir to nominate five Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

A bench consisting of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and P V Sanjay Kumar had, however, directed the petitioner to first approach the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh before seeking relief from the apex court.

"In many cases where we have entertained matters at first instance, we see that certain issues are overlooked," the bench observed, signalling that the High Court would be the appropriate forum to address the matter initially.

At the heart of the petition is a provision from the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, which allows the LG to nominate five MLAs to the assembly, representing displaced Kashmiri people and residents from PoK.

The J&K Assembly currently has 90 elected members, and these additional nominations raise the majority threshold from 45 to 48.

Reduce overcrowding of jails: MHA writes to states, UTs

shall be released on bond by the Court, if he has undergone detention for the period extending up to one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for such offence under that law'.

The Section 479 (3) of the BNSS casts a specific responsibility upon the Superintendent of Prisons, where the accused person is detained, to make an application to the concerned court for release of such prisoners on bail.

The home ministry said the Supreme Court, in its order dated August 23, 2024, in 'Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons' noted that the provisions of Section 479 of BNSS shall apply to all undertrials in pending cases irrespective of whether the case was registered against them before July 1, 2024, the date when the new law came into effect.

The Court has directed the Superintendents of Jails across the country that wherever accused persons are detained as undertrials, their applications may be preferred to the concerned courts, upon completion of one-half or one-third of the period mentioned in sub section (1) of Section 479, for their release on bail.

"All states and UTs are requested to take note of the specific legal mandate cast on the Superintendent of Prisons under their jurisdiction and disseminate this information to all relevant ranks, particularly the Superintendent of Prisons, and monitor the effective implementation of the new provisions of BNSS, as cited above," the communication said.

For assisting the state and UT prison authorities in quick identification of eligible prisoners, the ministry has made appropriate provisions in the national E-Prisons portal,

enlisting types of offences that prisoners have been charged with, the maximum sentence for the offence committed, the date of completion of one-half or one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for an offence under the relevant law by a prisoner, etc.

"The E-prisons portal has thus enabled the state Jail authorities to access the data of inmates in a quick and easy manner for identifying eligible inmates whose application needs to be moved to the court for their release on bail," the home ministry said.

Terrorists escape after encounter

ing towards the forest, leading to a brief firing, the officials added.

Reinforcements were rushed and a massive search operation was underway to track down the escaped terrorists. Security forces had also deployed drones and sniffer dogs, while a helicopter was also seen hovering over the forest area.

In nearby Rajouri district, officials said security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Kundan and in adjoining villages in Shadra Sharief area, following information about movement of three suspected terrorists in the early hours of Thursday.

The search operation was on when reports last came in but there was no contact with the terrorists so far, officials said.

Lone's distasteful gesture against National Anthem 'loathsome': Kavinder

ments of patriotic citizens across the nation. He underscored the importance of respecting national symbols, pointing out that disrespecting them not only damages national unity but also reflects poorly on the leadership of the parties associated with individuals who indulge in such behavior.

Govt amends guidelines for disposal of enemy properties

Property Act was enacted in 1968, which regulates such properties and lists the custodian's powers.

There are a total of 12,611 establishments called enemy properties, roughly estimated to be worth over Rs 1 lakh crore, in the country, officials said.

UP bypoll: SP-Cong resume seat-sharing talks

state assembly election results of Maharashtra and Jharkhand on November 23.

However, a final decision rests with the top brass of both the parties as SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and senior Congress leaders Rahul or Priyanka Gandhi will put their seal on the seat-sharing issue. As per the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) chief Ajai Rai, the talks are on between the two partners. "We hope the matter will be finalized soon," said Rai after the Election Commission announced the by-poll schedule on Tuesday.

While the Samajwadi Party had unilaterally announced its candidates on six of the 10 poll-bound seats on October 9, and seventh Sumbul Rana from Meerapur assembly segment on Thursday, the sources claimed that it may offer one or two remaining seats to Congress.

On the other, the Congress party is concerned about getting fewer seats as it had staked claim to five of the 10 seats. Now in the given scenario, the Congress may have to be happy with just two.

Hope Centre will soon restore statehood to J&K: Farooq

tion of Article 370, the NC President said, "It will take time for us to move to court again to put up our case."

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said that "there is a huge unemployment and poverty in Jammu and Kashmir that has to be addressed on priority basis".

"What we have mentioned in our manifesto will be implemented, and Jammu and Kashmir will move forward towards peace and prosperity," he said.

Asked that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has directed the police not to create a green corridor for him when he is travelling by road, Farooq said "running of sirens will not be allowed now..we are all the same people and traffic should not be hindered".

The NC president also said that those who are moving on two wheelers without helmets would be checked now.

DC Samba inspects National Highway maintenance work

SAMBA, OCTOBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today conducted an inspection of the ongoing work on the National Highway stretch from Gaghwal to Bari Brahmana, stressing the importance of timely completion to ensure public safety and facilitate smooth travel.

Accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh, traffic police officials, and representatives of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the maintenance and construction activities along the highway.

He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work, prioritize key sections and ensure that the road is maintained to the highest standards.

During the inspection, the DC instructed the agencies to install clear signboards at diversions, immediately address potholes, and take necessary measures to safeguard the convenience of commuters. The progress of flyover construction at various locations was also reviewed, with Rajesh Sharma urging construction companies to complete the work within the stipulated timeline and in a planned manner.

IN THE COURT OF SUB-JUDGE/SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE RAJOURI

Present: Rayaz Ahmed Choudhary
Mohd Sohail S/O Late Sh. Maqbool Hussain
R/O Nagrota Tehsil and District Rajouri

(Plaintiff)

VERSUS

1. Public at Large.
2. Gulnaz Begum W/o Late Maqbool Hussain
3. Mohd Adil S/O Late Maqbool Hussain Minor Through Mother Gulnaz Begum

(Defendants)

IN THE MATTER OF :-
Suit for declaration declaring the plaintiff to be the legal heir/owner of M/s United Steel Work Reg No. EM Part-II No. 01/01/100242 dated 17.04.2014 manufacturing of Steel, Gates and Grills, Door and Window frames only being son of the deceased.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the above titled suit for declaration as Pending disposal before his court and through the medium of this proclamation, public at large is hereby informed if anybody have any objection with respect to suit for declaration declaring the plaintiff to be the legal heir/owner of M/s United Steel Work Reg No. EM Part-II No. 01/01/100242 dated 17.04.2014 manufacturing of Steel, Gates and Grills, Door and Window frames, then he/she/they shall file the objections before this court within 10 days from the date of proclamation or on 25-10-24 failing which the matter shall be dealt in accordance with law. Given under my hand and seal of this court today the 14-10-24

Sd/-
Rayaz Ahmed Choudhary
Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate
Rajouri

Renowned Dholak Maestro Darbari Lal Passes Away

JAMMU, OCTOBER 17: In a tragic loss for the music fraternity, the Institute of Music and Fine Arts mourned the passing of renowned Dholak maestro Darbari Lal, who passed away early this morning. His legacy has deeply influenced the musical landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, and he was widely regarded as one of the finest Dholak players in the region, celebrated for his unmatched skill and dedication to traditional music.

Darbari Lal's sudden demise has left his family, friends, students, and the entire artistic community in shock. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to nurturing the art of percussion, playing an integral role in countless musical performances and training several generations of musicians. His contributions spanned both classical and folk traditions, making him a key figure in preserving and promoting



the region's rich musical heritage.

Although Darbari Lal was closely associated with the Sangeet and Kala Sansthan, his influence was felt strongly within the Institute of Music and Fine Arts as well. In response to the devastating news, Sunil Raina,

senior faculty member and sitar maestro at the Institute of Music and Fine Arts, expressed deep sorrow. "Today we lost not just a musician but a beacon of rhythm and soul. Darbari Lal's Dholak had a heartbeat of its own, and it will be greatly missed," Raina said.

The Institute of Music and Fine Arts honored Darbari Lal's memory with a two-minute silence observed by the faculty and students. Several faculty members, including Suraj Singh, Dr. Sumit Madan, Dr. Milan Sharma, Rohit Verma, Bindu Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Rajkumar Sharma, Palak,

Rachita Dutta, Prabhat Bali, Amit Anand, Shivani Kapoor, Mohit Kumar and Rajesh Kumar along with many others, expressed their grief, remembering Darbari Lal's unwavering passion and his ability to inspire young talents. His humility, deep love for music, and dedication to mentoring the next generation of musicians left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

Darbari Lal's passing marks the end of an era in Jammu's music scene. His rhythms and teachings will continue to resonate in the hearts of those who knew him, and his legacy will live on through the music he cherished. The Institute of Music and Fine Arts joins the entire community of musicians, students, and lovers of traditional music in paying tribute to a true maestro. His absence will be deeply felt, but his contributions to the world of music will never be forgotten.