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WB's neutral expert backs India on 2 hydro projects in J&K

pointment of the neutral expert to deal with its objections to the two projects. However, a year later, Islamabad demanded that the objections be handled by the court of arbitration.

India has been cooperating with the neutral expert but stayed away from proceedings of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

New Delhi considers the start of the two concurrent processes to resolve the dispute a violation of the provision of the graded mechanism prescribed in the IWT.

"It has been India's consistent and principled position that the neutral expert alone has the competence under the treaty to decide these differences," the MEA said in a statement.

"Having upheld his own competence, which comports with India's view, the neutral expert will now proceed to the next (merits) phase of his proceeding," it said.

The MEA said this phase will culminate in a final decision on the merits of each of the seven differences.

"Being committed to preserving the sanctity and integrity of the treaty, India will continue to participate in the neutral expert process so that the differences are resolved in a manner consistent with the provisions of the treaty, which does not provide for parallel proceedings on the same set of issues," it said.

"For this reason, India does not recognize or participate in the illegally constituted Court of Arbitration proceedings," it added.

The MEA said India and Pakistan also remain in touch on the matter of modification and review of the Indus Water Treaty.

Stopping cycle of deaths at Badhaal top priority: Omar

"I appeal to everyone to allow the concerned agencies to perform their duties. Identifying the reasons behind these tragic deaths is our utmost priority, and we are committed to taking steps to prevent such occurrences in the future."

A high level inter-ministerial team on Monday visited Badhaal to ascertain the cause of death of 17 members of three families under mysterious circumstances.

The central team headed by a director-rank officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs reached Rajouri district headquarters on Sunday evening and received a briefing from senior district, health and police officers, officials said.

Home Minister Amit Shah had ordered the constitution of the inter-ministerial team to ascertain the causes of deaths in the three families linked to each other in a remote village, about 55 km from Rajouri town, between December 7 and January 19.

Officials said the team, accompanied by dozens of senior officers of various departments, reached Badhaal at about 11.30 am and visited the bereaved families even as grave diggers were preparing the last resting place of Yasmeen Kousar (15), the sixth child of Mohammad Aslam who breathed her last at the SMGS hospital in Jammu on Sunday evening.

The central team divided itself in two groups immediately after reaching the village and undertook their investigation, officials said.

Nine members of two families had died in the village between December 7 and 12.

According to officials, the central team, in collaboration with the local administration, will work on providing immediate relief as well as taking precautionary measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

Experts from some of the most reputable institutions in the country have been arranged to manage the situation and understand the causes of the deaths.

The patients complained of fever, pain, nausea, intense sweating and loss of consciousness before dying within days of their admission to hospitals.

Earlier, a Jammu and Kashmir government spokesperson said investigations and samples empirically indicated that the incidents were not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin and that there is no public health angle.

Authorities recently sealed a spring in the village after its water was tested positive for some pesticides/insecticides.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kotranka Sub-division, Dil Mir had ordered the sealing of the spring along with deployment of two to three security personnel round-the-clock at the water resource in the village.

J&K achieves 85% completion rate under PMAY-G: Secretary RD&PR

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JAN 21

Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), with an 85% completion rate.

During a review meeting, the Secretary highlighted this significant milestone in implementation of rural housing scheme, expressing confidence that the remaining targets would be achieved by March 31st, despite challenging weather conditions in the hilly regions.

"Even with snowfall affecting construction in high altitude areas, our dedication towards providing 'Housing for All' remains unwavering," asserted the Secretary, emphasising that extraordinary challenges require extraordinary solutions.

The Secretary outlined a robust strategy to maintain this momentum, including weekly assessments and

comprehensive monitoring systems. He said that the focus remains on ensuring that every eligible family receives their home by the end of March, supported by meticulous financial planning and efficient fund utilisation.

Asad commended the outstanding performance of many districts, where completion rates have exceeded 90%. He urged other districts to emulate their success by addressing bottlenecks and improving performance metrics. He also gave a roadmap for timely completion of all houses by March 31, with district officers tasked to oversee progress closely.

The Secretary highlighted that since its inception in 2016, over 3.35 lakh houses have been sanctioned in Jammu and Kashmir, with 2.85 lakh already completed.

He said a record-breaking number of 67,780 houses have been completed in 2024-25, so far, and an additional figure of 82,000 houses will be completed by March end.

The Secretary directed the officers to conduct weekly

Sopore operation called off

later got martyred. The operation is over," Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone V K Birdi said.

Security forces resumed searches at Zalooru Gujjarpari on Tuesday morning but called off the operation later in the day.

The operation started on Sunday with security forces laying out a cordon after they noticed fire inside a hide-out.

Drone footage of the slain soldier has been doing rounds on the social media, prompting an advisory by police urging people not to share such videos which can "compromise the security of the state".

"It is reported that certain persons are circulating/sharing sensitive details about Gujjarpari/Zalooru incident without considering ramifications of such activism. It is enjoined upon all to desist from such irresponsible practices compromising the security of the state," Sopore police posted on its X handle.

Jawan injured in landmine explosion

jawans who were part of the patrolling party, the officials added.

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such incidents, officials said.

Woman, son killed in cylinder blast

jured to hospital, where they were declared brought dead, the officials added.

Police had registered a case in this connection and started inquest proceedings.

Parties must ensure smooth functioning of Parl, state legislatures: LS Speaker

"Under this, it was decided to run a campaign and programme to systematically spread constitutional values to the Panchayati Raj system, urban bodies, cooperative institutions, educational institutions, and various sections of society so that the roots of constitutional values become deeper and more permanent, so that the government system based on public participation becomes more robust and strong in the country," Birla said.

He reiterated the need to maintain the tradition of uninterrupted and orderly discussion and good communication in legislative institutions.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "one nation, one legislative platform", Birla said that unprecedented progress had been made in that direction in the past year.

"This conference is a testimony to our collective commitment to strengthening the foundations of the democratic system. To bring greater efficiency in the functioning of legislative bodies and enhance productivity, we have resolved to make greater use of AI (artificial intelligence) and technology in the Houses," Mr. Birla said.

He said parliamentary debates from 1947 till now would be compiled and published in Hindi and English. The debates would also be translated in 22 languages using AI.

"I am happy to inform that using artificial intelligence in Parliament of India, through 'Bhashini', we have started instant translation [of proceedings] in 10 of the 22 languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, and in the coming time, translation in all 22 languages will be possible," Birla said.

He expressed that by 2025-end, the proceedings of Parliament and all State legislatures would be available on a common platform.

He urged the presiding officers to digitise all debates in the respective legislative bodies, asserting that Parliament would provide all possible technical support.

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, while addressing the presiding officers, said the Constitution reflected the ancient values, and the decisions taken at the conference would further strengthen the democracy.

Khan said the origin of the Panchayati Raj system could be traced back to the ancient Indian republics, where the governance system was based on democratic principles.

He said that in ancient India, instead of hereditary monarchy, democratic systems prevailed, such as in Vaishali, where rulers were chosen by the people.

He added that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had acknowledged the ancient heritage of Indian democracy during the drafting of the Constitution.

He also spoke about the rich contribution of Bihar in the nation's freedom struggle and the drafting of the Constitution. He asserted that the Constitution was not just a legal document but also a symbol of the nation's ideals and ob-

CS for enforcing stringent containment measures to stop further loss of lives

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JAN 21

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today held a meeting of the Divisional and District administrations along with Health experts and Police Department to take assessment of the measures taken so far to identify the real causes behind the mysterious deaths reported from village Badhal in district Rajouri here.

The meeting besides Secretary Health & Medical Education Department was attended by ADGP, Jammu; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range; DC, Rajouri; SP, Rajouri; Principal, GMC, Jammu; Principal, GMC, Rajouri; Director, Health Services, Jammu besides some experts from the national health institutions.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned from Health and Police Departments to take stringent containment measures in consultation with the Divisional administration to ensure that there is no further loss of any life.

He advised the concerned to frame a proper SOP for

jectives.

JKCEE prelims on Feb 23

Examination-2024, that the preliminary examination shall now be held on February 23, 2025.

The notification says that the exam would be conducted in two sessions from 10 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 4 pm.

Employees asked to register on iGOT Karmayogi portal

ance, complete competency assessments, and submit action reports to the General Administration Department.

Second JPC meeting to examine 2 Bills on Jan 31

Chaudhary, the 39-member joint committee comprises members from all major parties, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Congress, Sanjay Jha from JD(U), Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, AAP's Sanjay Singh, and Kalyan Banerjee and Saket Gokhale from Trinamool Congress.

The government decided to increase the committee's strength from 31 to 39, as more political parties expressed their desire to be part of the exercise to examine the two draft legislations on simultaneous elections.

Former Union ministers Anurag Thakur, Parshottam Rupala and Manish Tewari and several other lawmakers, including Anil Baluni, Bansuri Swaraj and Sambit Patra, are also members of the committee.

The panel has 27 members from Lok Sabha and 12 from Rajya Sabha.

SC asks HCs to set up panel for judges' Pay Comm recommendations

tired district judges - of the CSDJs to be appointed within four weeks.

It asked the respective high courts to provide office space for the nodal officers within their premises. The bench asked the apex court registry to send a copy of its order to the chief secretaries of all states and UTs and the registrar generals of high courts.

The SNJPC recommendations cover pay structure, pension and family pension and allowances, besides dealing with the issue of establishing a permanent mechanism to determine subjects of service conditions of the district judiciary.

Earlier, the apex court said each high court will have a two-person committee, comprising high court judges, including one who was elevated from the district judiciary, to deal with SNJPC-related issues and other grievances of serving and former judicial officers.

The registrar general of the high court will be the ex-officio secretary of the panel, which will have a former district judge as its nodal officer, it said.

The court was hearing a plea filed by the All India Judges Association and others on pay and service conditions of district judicial officers.

Trump declares end to birthright citizenship

claring illegal immigration at the border a national emergency, he swiftly made moves on his promises to tighten the US-Mexico border.

But some of his plans - particularly around changing the definition of birthright citizenship - were likely to face significant hurdles. He is already facing legal challenges from immigration advocacy groups, which have reacted furiously to his announcements.

One organisation said his plans "do not uphold American values", and another said Trump's administration was "actively trying to destroy our lives".

In his inaugural address earlier in the day, Trump vowed that "all illegal entry will be halted" and that millions of "criminal aliens" would be deported.

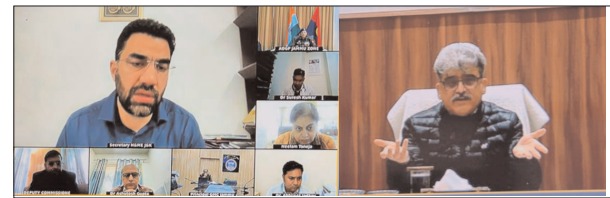
He also signed an order declaring Mexican drug cartels terrorist organisations. "I have no higher responsibility than to defend our country from threats and invasions," he explained.

At another event at Washington's Capital One Arena, Trump formally revoked nearly 80 executive actions of his predecessor Joe Biden. He had previously vowed to scrap Biden's policies "within five minutes".

Following his inauguration, he also signed a proclamation that gave officials the authority to "repel, repatriate, or remove" migrants until he was satisfied that "the invasion at the southern border has ceased".

Although the details of the order were not yet known, officials said that Trump plans to end birthright citizenship.

That refers to an approach of the US government whereby anyone born on American soil is considered a citizen at birth, regardless of their parents' immigration sta-



monitoring the population of the village. He asked them to deploy sufficient manpower from both the Health department and Police to enforce the Do's and Don'ts set in the SOP.

Dulloo further enjoined upon the divisional and district administration to not let down their guard and allow only tested edibles and non-edibles to be used by the persons under quarantine. He stressed that till the actual causes of these deaths are not known both the Police and Health professionals should carry on their investigations as required as per the set procedures.

He also urged them to study the reports received from the national diagnostic institutions that had taken samples from the village. He directed them to take every possible measure to protect the lives of these villagers till the toxicology reports point out the actual causes of these deaths.

He also took note of the

tus.

Trump appears to be seeking to change the rules so that that the children of undocumented migrants living in the US will no longer automatically be considered US citizens. It would not apply retrospectively.

Exactly how he intends to achieve this is unclear, however, because birthright citizenship is enshrined in the constitution and would require a two-thirds vote in both chambers of Congress to change.

Trump has instructed federal agencies to stop issuing documentation to children born in the US to parents who are in the country illegally or on temporary visas, which could effectively deny them access to public services.

Advocacy group the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) immediately said it was suing the Trump administration over the order. "Denying citizenship to US-born children is not only unconstitutional - it's also a reckless and ruthless repudiation of American values," it said in a statement.

The new administration has also moved to swiftly scrap CBP One, a mobile application used by migrants to book appointments to appear at a port of entry.

Biden administration officials had credited the app with helping reduce the number of detentions at the border since it was first introduced in January 2023. It was the only legal pathway to request asylum at the US-Mexico border.

Now, the Customs and Border Protection website notes that the app is "no longer available".

App users also now are shown a message noting that "existing appointments scheduled through CBP One are no longer valid".

Other estimates had suggested that as many as 270,000 migrants were in Mexico waiting for an opportunity to enter the US using CBP One.

In the Mexican border city of Tijuana, some migrants reported feeling defeated and deflated after learning of CBP One's demise.

The CBP One app stopped working shortly after Trump became president.

'Gangster' shot dead in broad daylight at Jewel Chowk

commandeered a two-wheeler at gunpoint and fled the spot, the officials added.

Jandiyaal was taken to the nearby Government Medical College & Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Jandiyaal alias Gataru was said to be the kingpin of 'Gataru Gang'. He was detained under Public Safety Act (PSA) last year. He survived an assassination attempt in 2017.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Anand Jain said, "It is a gang war. He belonged to the Gataru gang of Vijaypur. Members of a rival gang fired on him. It is not a terrorist incident, but a case of gang rivalry."

He said a special investigation team had been formed to nab the assailants.

Those involved in the shooting had been identified and police teams were actively pursuing them, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Shiv Kumar Sharma said.

KPs' plight unique: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, JAN 21 Union Minister Jitendra Singh today referred to the tragic history of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus, saying that their plight was unique as they were rendered homeless in their own country and that too overnight. "Nevertheless, Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits," he emphasised in conversation with 'Sansad TV'.

Crediting PM Narendra Modi for space reforms which had opened the sector to private investment enabling fast-track growth, Dr Singh said that the space economy was projected to grow five times in next decade from \$8 to \$44 billion.

Milestones like the indigenous Gaganyaan Mission, the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 (2027), Shukrayaan (2028), and the Indian Space Station (2030) showcase India's robust tra-

jectory, are in the pipeline, he said.

Dr Singh shared an in-depth exchange of views with Vijay Tankha, Member of Rajya Sabha, during an exclusive programme on Sansad TV.

He underscored that J&K and its people, including the Kashmiri Pandits, remain at the core of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's priorities. Highlighting the reduced physical and emotional distances, he pointed to expanded train networks and express corridors ensuring all-weather connectivity. Reiterating the tragic history of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus, he emphasised that their plight remains unique, making them homeless in their own country overnight. BJP was the first party to address this

sensitive issue, with leaders like Murlidhar Joshi and L.K. Advani championed the cause.

He credited PM Modi's commitment, evident in his over 35 visits to J&K, for ensuring welfare initiatives, including separate accommodations for Pandits and reintegration into Kashmiri society.

ED attaches 2 hotels at Patnitop

NEW DELHI, JAN 21: The Enforcement Directorate has attached two hotels, valued at about Rs 15 crore, in the tourist town of Patnitop in Jammu and Kashmir as part of a money laundering investigation.

The federal agency said in a statement on Tuesday that the two facilities — Hotel Trinetra Resorts and Hotel Green Orchid — were built "beyond" the area permitted by the Patnitop Development Authority (PDA).

A provisional order was issued by the ED to attach the hotels under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The two immovable properties are valued at Rs 14.93 crore.

hotels, guest houses, resorts, cottages and residences in Patnitop area apart from PDA officials.

It was alleged in the CBI complaint that these hotels "indulged in" commercial use of residential buildings, made excess construction beyond approved limits and operated their businesses in prohibited areas (dense forests, agricultural areas, residential areas, etc.) and these alleged lapses were "overlooked" by PDA officials.

"Hotel Trinetra Resorts and Hotel Green Orchid were built beyond the area permitted by the PDA," the agency said.

"Both had undertaken illegal construction beyond approved limits and acquired illegally encroached land while generating revenue from utilising the same," the ED said.