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AC gives nod...

to the proposal of the Public Works (R&B) Department for the adoption of J&K Road Maintenance Policy, 2020-21 and along with the standard operating procedure for maintenance of road network in Jammu and Kashmir. The new policy will help in timely maintenance of roads and repair of potholes before deterioration of entire road stretches.

The Department was also authorized to purchase requisite numbers of two-wheelers costing up to Rs. 2.00 crores during the current financial year.

The decision aims at scientifically maintaining the J&K's gross road length of 41,600 km. Moreover, with the completion of PMGSY I & II, as well as other projects under the languishing project scheme, the road network is expected to reach 46,000 km length by 2022 which would require dedicated maintenance.

The new road maintenance policy will provide a guiding framework for establishing objectives, making arrangements for, and establishing a set of procedures for undertaking maintenance and repair works by PWD. It lays down norms for maintenance of roads covering routine, periodic, and emergency maintenance by respected provincial RMMCs.

The policy provides for upgrading cross drainage systems of roads; ensuring timely clearances and repair works for proper maintenance of roads; getting repair works done during and after the completion of defect liability period; implementing audit of roads and bridges besides ensuring road safety measures on critical spots; and regular inspection of roads by the field staff through visits as per a standard schedule. Additionally, the policy also includes provisions for empowering the field staff to ensure fortnightly site inspections and reporting; restoring potholes and craters having within 7-days by mobile teams, and introducing the latest technology and gadgets including digital survey vehicles for speedy and precise assessment of road conditions.

Govt winds up...

of Rs. 109 lakh. The Administrative Council decided to close the Gazetteer Unit and transfer its record, office equipment, and existing staff to the General Administration Department. Pertinently, the Gazetteer Unit was entrusted with the preparation of regional gazetteers after studying Jammu and Kashmir's geography, economy, society, education, and social welfare through the archival records, published works, and individual studies to publish the findings in the form of a book called Gazetteer.

Amit Shah, LG...

inside a government school in Srinagar on Thursday.

Of the seven killed in last five days, four were from minority communities and six of the deaths took place in Srinagar.

Supinder Kaur, the principal of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School at Eidgah in Srinagar, and Deepak Chand, were gunned down around 11.15 am at the school premises.

There were no students in school at the time of the incident.

Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit and owner of Srinagar's most famous pharmacy, was shot dead at his shop on Tuesday.

A 'chaat' vendor, Virendra Paswan from Bihar, and another civilian, Mohammad Shafi Lone, were also killed on Tuesday in Srinagar and in Bandalpura respectively.

On Saturday, terrorists shot dead Majid Ahmad Gojri in Srinagar and Mohammad Shafi Dar at Batmaloo.

According to official statistics, a total 28 civilians were killed by terrorists so far in 2021.

Out of the 28 killed, five persons belong to local Hindu or Sikh communities and two non-local Hindu labourers.

Every drop of...

to the families who have lost their loved ones. The UT administration and the whole country stand in solidarity with the families of the victims in this hour of grief," he added.

LG Sinha said he was aware that the people of J&K and the whole nation are in deep anger. "Everyone wants justice. I assure you that we have given free hand to the security agencies to eliminate the enemies of humanity, and soon the terrorists and those aiding and abetting them will pay for their heinous crimes", he said.

"Every drop of innocent civilians' blood will be avenged", he said.

Sinha said the peace and progress accomplished by J&K in the last two years has ratified the neighbouring country and some of its terror sympathizers in the UT. "I want to assure the people that we will completely demolish their terror ecosystem," he added.

The LG said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir today wants development as after decades, they have new role models, and new aspirations.

"In July, 10.5 lakh tourists came to Jammu and Kashmir. The figure was 11.28 lakhs in August, and in September, the numbers crossed 12 lakhs", he said.

The LG said certain elements across the border and their associates in UT have a problem with this kind of growth and prosperity. "I also urge the intelligentsia of Jammu and Kashmir to unite against terrorism, so that we could defeat the biggest enemy of humanity", he added.

"Again, I assure the people of India and the residents of Jammu and Kashmir that the terrorists and those who harbor such enemies of humanity will not be spared," LG said.

As many as seven civilians have been killed by militants in Kashmir Valley in the last five days. A woman principal and a teacher were shot dead at a point-blank range inside a government school on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit, was killed by terrorists in Srinagar.

Climate of fear...

the PAGD was convened on Friday at the residence of its chairman Farooq Abdullah to take stock of the current situation prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir; PAGD spokesman M Y Tarigami said.

The meeting was attended by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and NC leader Justice (retired) Hasnain Masoodi.

The spokesman said the PAGD unreservedly condemned the recent killings of innocent people in the valley.

These killings have created a climate of fear that has not been seen in Kashmir since the early 90s. The current situation prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir is the result of the failure of the policies of the government that have brought Jammu & Kashmir to this point, he said.

Tarigami said whether it was demonetisation or the removal of Article 370, these decisions were sold to the country as a solution to the problems of militancy and alienation in Kashmir.

Today, it has been shown that without any doubt that neither demonetization nor the removal of Article 370 have contributed to improving the security situation in J-K. In fact, some recent decisions of the J-K administration have only served to heighten differences between the communities that otherwise were living peacefully amongst each other; he said.

The PAGD spokesman said while the onus to create a conducive security environment lies with the Government of India, we as responsible political parties of Jammu & Kashmir will play our role to the best of our ability to reduce the levels of suspicion and fear.

While it is true that the majority of the civilian deaths in Kashmir have been Muslims, it does not absolve us of our responsibility to do everything in our power to help those who belong to religious minorities feel secure and we appeal to those who may be considering fleeing the Valley to reconsider their decision, he said.

Tarigami said in the meeting of the political leaders with the Prime Minister on June 24 this year, the Prime Minister acknowledged "Dil ki doori aur Dilli sey doori while promising to correct this distance.

Unfortunately, nothing has been done in this regard since that meeting. Arbitrary detentions and excessive use of force continue to be the norm in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Referring to the killing of Yasir Ali in CRPF firing in Anantnag on Thursday, Tarigami said it is the direct result of the heightened state of alert and justification for the use of force.

Harassment of innocent civilians and the killings like Yasir Ali will only serve to worsen the situation in Jammu & Kashmir. The administration must do everything possible to ensure that shoot at sight policy is not adopted by the security forces, the PAGD spokesman said.

Highest single-day...

wherein they invoked the scientific literature and latest research regarding importance of vaccination via a vis combating the pandemic has been another hallmark and feature of this success story.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla has been personally monitoring the progress on a real time basis and hourly updates are being shared with him. The daily targets are being chased with full commitment and periodic updates are sent to the concerned quarters.

The vaccinators on ground have been the real force behind this success who have been vaccinating people at designated sites, hilly, remote and difficult to reach areas, fields and orchards, gardens and public parks, slums, brick kilns and construction sites, schools and colleges besides making door to door vaccinations in other areas while taking all precautions into consideration.

Speaking on the achievement, the DC said it is a proud moment for the district and

complemented the health care and front line workers in this regard. He informed that massive awareness and IEC campaigns were launched to address the vaccine hesitancy besides inoculations were carried out both at designated sites and remote and far off places by dedicated vaccination teams.

Dr. Singla called for continuing the immunisation programme with full momentum till all the eligible population is covered with the 2nd dose as well.

The DC hailed the general public for their cooperation and appealed to them to participate in vaccination drives with the same energy. He also appreciated the senior officers of Health, Civil and Police administration, Tehsildars, BDOs, BLOs, Officials from Municipalities, Revenue, Education and other departments besides Media, PRI and ULB members and other stakeholders for mobilizing and vaccinating such a huge chunk of population.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir has reported 100 new positive cases of novel Corona virus (COVID-19)-eight from Jammu division and 92 from Kashmir division, have been reported today, thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 330352.

Moreover, 91 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 25 from Jammu Division and 66 from Kashmir Division.

The officials said that no new case of Mucormycosis has been reported during the past 24 hours.

It adds that 94.53 percent of the population above the age of 18 years has been vaccinated across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 330352 positive cases, 1099 are Active Positive (300 in Jammu Division and 799 in Kashmir Division), 324827 have recovered and 4426 have died; 2174 in Jammu division and 2252 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 15246990 test results available, 330352 samples have tested positive and 14916638 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 55,581 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 3605493 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 7717 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1099 in isolation and 461810 in home surveillance. Besides, 3130441 persons have completed their surveillance period.

LeT terrorist killed...

the spot, the police said. According to an identity card recovered from the slain terrorist, he was identified as Aqib Bashir Kumar, a resident of Trenz Shopian. He was affiliated with LeT, they said.

IPS among 18...

posting, as Commandant IR-22 Bn; Mukesh Kumar Kakkar, SP, awaiting orders of posting, as DyCO IR-18th Bn; Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie, SP, awaiting orders of posting, as DyCO IR-12th Bn; Mukash Hussain, SP, awaiting orders of posting, as DyCO IR-11th Bn; Mushtaq Ahmad, SP, awaiting orders of posting, as posted as SP Security Workshop; Gawhar Ahmad Khan, DyCO IR-23d Bn has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP Budgam; Pardeep Singh, Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu as Addl. SP Kupwara; Brijesh Kumar Sharma, DyCO JKAP-14th Bn as Joint Director SSF, headquartered at Srinagar; Raj Paul Singh, Joint Director SSF has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu.

'Some have started...

"Around 500 people or more have started leaving from different areas like Budgam, Anantnag and Pulwama. There are some non-Kashmiri pandit families who have also left. It is 1990 revisited," says Sanjay Tiku, president of Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti (KPSS).

"It may seem invisible but migration is going on and I was anticipating this. We had requested appointment from the Lt Governor's office in June, but have not been given time till now," Tiku, who has never migrated out of the valley, said.

He said such developments are noticed much these days due to social media, and "we are aware of who all have left."

The KPSS says it is now evidently clear that the Confidence Building Measure of providing employment to the Kashmiri migrants is not appreciated by the anti-minority forces. He also slammed the administration.

Vessu migrant camp in Qazigund area of South Kashmir which houses around 380 families became an epicentre of administrative actions Friday morning when Anantnag Deputy Commissioner Piyush Singla along with police officers pleaded the families not to leave the transit camp.

"He assured us complete security and requested us not to move to Jammu," said Sunny Raina, President of Vessu camp package employee association.

The organisation, which has 4,284 employees, had written a letter to the chief secretary expressing fear for their lives.

"In a state of extreme fear and panic, we bring to your kind notice that the whole of the minority populace of Kashmiri Pandits dispensing their duties in Kashmir feels scared of the emerging grave, anti-minority situation in Kashmir."

"Due to recent brutal and gruesome selective killings of members of Hindu community, all employees who belong to the same community feel insecure and frightened," they wrote.

"The emerging situation reminds us of the similar situation that of decade 1990s, which led to the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits," the memorandum said, adding the same loss of lives cannot be afforded by the community again.

Raina argues that while the camps where they stay are completely secure, there are several hundred employees residing outside these camps and have to attend to their duties in far flung areas.

"It seems that the administration is not capable enough to provide security to all the employees and therefore, we have asked the chief secretary to exempt us from the duties till the situation returns to normal," he said.

Raina said that while 20 percent of 380 families had left on Thursday, some families moved out even Friday before the Deputy Commissioner came to the camp.

Vinod Raina, who is the President of PM package employee's association at Mattan, an area in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, says that around 250 people living outside the transit camps have left for Jammu since attack on minority community started a few days back.

"When the news of killing of teachers in Srinagar reached, our fellow colleagues belonging to Muslim community escorted us back to the camp. The bonhomie between the two communities is strong and I hope it stays like that," says Raina, who was employed as teacher in 2010.

He said that some of the migrant employees staying outside transit camps have already shifted their base to Jammu.

"This is a sad," says another employee who did not wish to be named. "And the pace at which the government has been functioning for the last few years is not encouraging."

DCs assured full...

terrorists. "Everything will be alright. Don't repeat the exodus (from Kashmir valley due to terror). Be brave, I am behind you all," Pandita wrote in a WhatsApp post.

"My advice to all those living in the valley, particularly PM package employees, is not to panic", the RC said. Pandita assured them of full security to all of their colonies in Kashmir. "I have talked to all Deputy Commissioners and they have assured full security to all the colonies", he said. The RC said he has talked to high level officers and requested them to provide safe shelter to all employees, who are on rent.

"I again advise my children to be brave and don't panic. Don't give importance to rumours. Everything will be alright. Don't repeat the exodus. Be brave, I am behind you all" he said.

Ministry of Tribal...

Tribal Affairs, Anil Kumar Jha; Union Jt Secretary Navaljit Kapoor; Secretary, Tribal Affairs J&K, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Director in Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Dr Anil Kumar and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Minister for Tribal Affairs held through discussion on proposals submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Government under various sectors including education, essential services, tribal health plan, livelihood schemes, farming, infrastructure, transit accommodations, IT initiatives and development projects among others.

He asked the concerned divisions in the ministry for expeditious processing of proposals for approval in order to ensure required facilities and services are extended to tribal population in J&K. The issue of funding under Art 275(1) was also discussed for early resolution.

Union Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Anil Kumar Jha assured approval of majority of projects under various schemes and special focus on unique needs of migratory tribal population. He appreciated the comprehensive survey conducted for migratory population which will help in long term planning.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department J&K, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary projected the proposal for implementation of Integrated Village Development Scheme and inclusion of additional 65 villages in addition to central list of 302 villages and also notification of Dhoks (highland pasture habitations) as villages under the scheme in view migratory population residing in these locations needing various facilities. He also briefed the Ministry about the planning process initiated by the department for establishment of Integrated Tribal Development Authorities in various districts and solicited sanction by the ministry.

The projects submitted to the Ministry include establishment of 07 more Eklavya Model Residential Schools, 02 Model Day Boarding Schools, 02 Centres of Excellence in Sports, grant for Tribal Smart Schools, establishment of 80 hostels in various districts and grant for Tribal Bhawan. Other important projects placed before the ministry for consideration and approval include Livelihood projects for tribal youth and women, sanction for creation of posts in Tribal Research Institute and extension of various schemes under TRIFED.

districts and grant for Tribal Bhawan. Other important projects placed before the ministry for consideration and approval include Livelihood projects for tribal youth and women, sanction for creation of posts in Tribal Research Institute and extension of various schemes under TRIFED.

The meeting also deliberated about special income generating avenues for tribal population and dedicated efforts for migratory tribal population in J&K. The need for establishment of more hostels and residential schools was also highlighted. It was decided that in view of holistic plan submitted by the Tribal Affairs Department J&K the Union Ministry will take up inter-sectoral projects with various ministries for support through respective departments.

Attacks on civilians...

targeted here. I heard it from very responsible people. When this information could reach me, did it not reach the responsible persons in the administration? Why did they not do anything about it?"

"There is an atmosphere of fear; everyone is thinking of leaving from here. It is our responsibility, especially of the majority community, to try to give a sense of security to our brothers and neighbours so that we will not see a repeat of the 1990s-like situation, he said.

When asked if the attacks were done to disrupt the communal harmony in J&K, Abdullah said the militants always had such an agenda.

They have had this agenda from the start. Yesterday also, they separated these two teachers and then killed them. The aim is to disrupt the traditional communal harmony here and worsen the situation.

That is why I said it is the responsibility of the majority community. When we look for safety of Muslims and Sikhs in other parts from our Hindu brethren, so, in Kashmir also where Muslims are in majority, it is our responsibility to provide them a sense of security, he said.