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Amit Shah arrives...

the Forest Rights Act in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," convenor of the committee Anwar Choudhary told reporters here.

However, he appealed to Shah to allay the apprehensions that the ST status of the Gujjars, Bakewals, Gadi and Sipis shall not be diluted by including any other section of people from Jammu and Kashmir in the category.

Senior BJP leader Arshad Choudhary, who is from the Gujjar community, said the demand of the Paharis for the ST status is "spurious and unjustifiable", and said the tribals got the ST status after decades of relentless struggle and secured 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education.

Home Minister's visit...

Sunderbani, Nowshera, and Kalakote routes will be de-boarded at Panj-Peer and LMVs will be parked at BSF Convoy ground/Tourism Parking (Alpha Gate).

Buses/Mini-Buses/Tata Sumo's from Sunderbani, Nowshera, and Kalakote routes, after de-boarding the participants at Panj-Peer (Near Pir Baba Ziyarat), will be returned back and parked at Sabzi Mandi (Phalyana).

Vehicles of Participants plying from Budhal, Kandi, Palma, Koteshwar routes will be diverted from Khandi via Dhangri-Muradpur towards Panj-Peer and LMVs will be parked at BSF Convoy ground and HMVs at Sabzi Mandi (Phalyana) and those participants who want to park their vehicles near Khandi Bhadoon will be allowed to park their vehicles at Badhoon along road side.

Vehicles of Participants plying from Thanamandi, Darhal routes will be de-boarded at Bella Colony and LMVs will be parked at Bella ground.

Buses, Mini-Buses and Tata Sumo's from Thanamandi, Darhal routes after de-boarding the participants at Bella Colony will be returned back and parked at DIET RAJOURI/FCI Parking/Sports Stadium Parking (Kheora).

Vehicles of Participants plying from Choudhary-Nar and Dhandkote routes will be de-boarded and Parked at PG College Rajouri.

Vehicles of Participants plying from Gurdhan route will be de-boarded/Parked at Old Bus-Stand Rajouri.

Four JKSSB Members...

Director, Hospitality and Protocol, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Controller of Examinations in the J&K Services Selection Board.

J&K Admn ropes...

Solna which was inaugurated by Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kour in presence of Commissioner State Taxes, J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh.

The space and infrastructure for running the canteen has been provided by the department while the services are to be managed by a team of eight members of different Self Help Groups from Ganderbal district under UMEED scheme of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Department of Rural Development.

Mandeep Kour, while terming the move an encouraging initiative towards women empowerment, appreciated the efforts of Mission Director J&K RLM and officers of State Taxes department for facilitating the Self Help Groups earn their livelihood through such initiatives. She highlighted that the new canteen, being run by the Women Self Help Group, set up in the department will become a role model for similar canteens in other districts and government departments.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, while interacting with the members of Self Help Groups, highlighted that collaboration on one hand fulfills the need of the department by making available affordable and hygienic food options within the complex to its employees besides boosting microenterprises being set up by women belonging to economically weaker sections of the society on the other hand.

It is worthwhile to mention that these women Self Help Groups are being identified by RDD & PR under UMEED and are being trained professionally so that the members become confident in shouldering the responsibility in a professional manner.

Self Help Group members expressed gratitude to the administration for giving

them an opportunity of their engagement with a government department, for the first time, to manage an in-house canteen. They assured that they will meet the set standards of quality, taste and hygiene.

Applications invited for...

experience in, or have shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to engineering, finance, commerce, economics, law, administration or management can apply for Chairperson post.

Besides, persons of ability, integrity and standing who have adequate knowledge of, or experience in, or have shown capacity in dealing with, problems relating to engineering, finance, commerce, economics, law, administration or management can apply for Members posts.

Meanwhile, out of the two vacant posts, one is to be filled with the persons who are holding or have held a post not below the rank of Chief Engineer and having qualification and experience in the field of Hydraulic Engineering.

Moreover, the terms of office of the Chairperson and other members shall be for a period of 3 years or attaining the age of 65 whichever is earlier.

As per laid out terms and conditions, consequent upon the appointment as Chairperson or Member of the Authority, he/she shall not hold any other office during the tenure.

The Chairperson shall be entitled to the salary and allowances which is equal to the salary and allowances payable to a Principal Secretary to Government or the pay drawn by him when he was in Government service, whichever is higher.

A Member shall be entitled to the salary and allowances which is equal to the salary and allowances payable to a Chief Engineer or the pay last drawn by him when he was in Government service, whichever be higher.

If the Chairperson or Member at the time of his appointment was in receipt of a pension in respect of any previous service under the Government, his salary as Chairperson or Member, as the case may be, shall be reduced by the amount of that pension.

The interested persons, possessing the requisite eligibility have been asked to submit their resume in Jal Shakti Department, Civil Secretariat Srinagar/Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of notification on the official email i.e. pspeh@gmail.com.

Tourism Deptt, IISM...

conduct paragliding training courses at Aithem near Surinsar in the coming future. IISM Gulmarg has an active role in promoting Adventure Tourism and actively trains the youth in different adventure Sports such as skiing, mountaineering, high altitude, trekking, hot air balloon and other related adventure activities. Speaking on the occasion, Former Director Col J S Dhillon, SM who is presently working with IISM as a consultant and supervising its field activities said that India has huge scope for adventure tourism but we have trust deficit amongst organizers and tourists due to safety issues as most of the organizer are ill-trained and use sub-standard equipments, but the institute under the aegis of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is trying to bridge the critical gaps and train local youth in such courses so that safe and reliable ventures start mushrooming in Jammu region and Jammu develops as 'Air Sport Adventure Destination'. He added that Jammu has the potential to become an attractive destination for adventure enthusiasts.

The course was conducted with the support of local authorities of the tourism department, sports, police and air force. The balloon flights were conducted by Sub. Ram Mohan, ex. Army Officer who has more than 600 hours of flying experience.

In an impressive graduation ceremony on Monday, Vivekananda Rai, IRS, Director Tourism, Jammu inspected the training on live Hot Air Balloon and gave away certificates to successful candidates of the 2nd Batch. He said that today's generation needs such adventure activities to transform their personalities and also promote safe and sustainable tourism in our country. He emphasized that the Jammu region has immense potential for adventure tourism and the Directorate of Tourism Jammu is committed towards developing and promoting Jammu as 'The Land of Adventures'.

The current course was attended by adventure aspirants from all over India. Among those who were present on the occasion were Sumaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, who congratulated the IISM Gulmarg and the passing

out students for the successful completion of 2nd batch. She emphasized on the importance of more such courses especially tailored made for Jammu region in various aero adventure sectors.

IAF inducts indigenously...

for reposing confidence in indigenously developed platforms.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the capabilities of LCH are on a par with the helicopters of its class globally.

The helicopters were given a traditional water-canon salute that followed a multi-religious prayer ceremony.

The need for developing a light combat helicopter for mountain warfare was felt during the Kargil War in 1999.

"Subsequently, the IAF and HAL began exploring the possibility of developing the platform with a capacity to carry an adequate weapon load, sufficient fuel and still be capable of operating in the higher reaches of the Himalayan ranges," said an official. By mid-2010, the prototype of LCH completed a major flight test and it was deemed to have fulfilled the desired parameters.

In February 2020, the LCH was declared ready for production. In March, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the procurement of 15 indigenously developed Limited Series Production (LSP) LCH at a cost of Rs 3,887 crore.

The defence ministry had said 10 helicopters would be for the IAF and five will be for the Indian Army.

The induction of the chopper comes at a time India and China are locked in a military stand-off in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh. The LCH has similarities with Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv. It has a number of stealth features, armoured-protection systems, night attack capability and crash-worthy landing gear for better survivability, officials said.

The LCH is equipped with requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and all-weather combat capability to perform a range of roles including combat search and rescue (CSAR), destruction of enemy air defence (DEAD) and counter-insurgency (CI) operations.

The helicopter can also be deployed in high-altitude bunker-busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungles and urban environments as well as for supporting ground forces. The helicopter can also be used against slow-moving aircraft and remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs) of adversaries. Officials said it would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF and the Indian Army.

They said state-of-the-art technologies and systems compatible with stealth features such as reduced visual, aural, radar and IR signatures and crash-worthiness features for better survivability have been integrated into the LCH for deployment in combat roles.

Several key aviation technologies like a glass cockpit and composite airframe structure have been indigenised, they said.

The future series-production version will consist of further modern and indigenous systems, they said.

Four LCH helicopters have already been accepted by the IAF.

The officials said IAF plans to procure more LCH in the near future. The helicopter has been tested under stringent operating conditions including at sea level, in desert regions and in Siachen.

The Army has a plan to acquire 95 LCH largely for a combat role in mountains.

Taj Mohi-ud...

Congress on August 26, launched the DAP in Jammu on September 26 with the support of dozens of former ministers, former MLAs and other prominent leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, most of whom had also resigned from the Congress in solidarity with him.

Azad was unanimously elected as the chairman of the DAP on October 1, following a resolution passed at a session of the party's founder-members, which was held both in Jammu and Srinagar.

11 new COVID cases in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 11 new COVID cases on Monday that took the overall infection tally in the region to 4,79,174, officials said.

No COVID-related fatality was reported in the past 24 hours and the death toll stands at 4,785, they said.

All the new cases were from the Kashmir valley, officials said.

There are 114 active cases in the Union Territory, while the overall recoveries has reached 4,74,275, they said.

There were at present 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in Jammu and Kashmir, they added.

NC's fight against abrogation of Article 370 still on, says Farooq

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Monday said the party is fighting a

legal and a political battle of Article 370 at multiple-levels as he urged people to play their part by registering as voters for the imminent state election.

Abdullah's remarks came in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district where he made a brief stopover while on way to Chenab valley for a four-day tour.

Interacting with party workers, he urged them to get eligible youths to get registered as voters in their respective areas.

"The party is fighting a

just, democratic, legal, and political battle against the decisions of August 5, 2019 at multiple levels," Abdullah said, referring to the revocation of Articles 370 and 35-A, and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union territories. The former Union minister, however, said that the people of J-K will also have to play their role by registering and subsequently coming out in large numbers to vote, whenever elections are held.

"Our region is at crossroads, it requires us to remain united as never before. It also requires our party men to educate and inform people about the designs of the anti-JK forces," he added.

200 rail stations to be revamped, India to have 400 'Vande Bharat' trains in future: Vaishnaw

STATE TIMES NEWS

AURANGABAD (Maha): As many as 200 railway stations

across the country will get a facelift with modern amenities, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Monday.

He attended the foundation stone laying ceremony for a coach maintenance factory at the Aurangabad railway station in central Maharashtra.

"Tendering process for 47 railway stations is completed while physical work has started at 32 stations," he said.

He said the railways is being transformed.

"The government has prepared a master plan to revamp 200 railway stations. Overhead spaces will be created on the stations which will have world-class facilities including waiting lounges and food courts, besides amusement facilities for children," the minister said.

These ideas and innovations were divided into five categories to include operational capability, equipment availability, IT application or software, simulators and expedites.

Vaishnaw also said that railway stations will act as the "platform" for the sale of regional products.

Speaking on the contribution of the Marathwada region in Maharashtra in the making of Vande Bharat trains, the minister said, "The country will have 400 Vande Bharat trains in future and 100 of these trains will be manufactured in the coach factory at Latur in Marathwada. The necessary

quarters to encourage officers explore their creative potential and resolve challenges related to critical equipment and weapon systems, their upgrade, effort-saving techniques and creating new designs to fill existing void, the spokesperson said. The aim of the competition is to also boost the development of locally designed equipment and modifications to suit the terrain and weather so as to increase the operational effectiveness of units and formations, he said.

These ideas and innovations competition is an annual event organised by the Northern Command head-

quarters to encourage officers explore their creative potential and resolve challenges related to critical equipment and weapon systems, their upgrade, effort-saving techniques and creating new designs to fill existing void, the spokesperson said. The aim of the competition is to also boost the development of locally designed equipment and modifications to suit the terrain and weather so as to increase the operational effectiveness of units and formations, he said.

These ideas and innovations

competition is an annual event organised by the Northern Command head-

J&K Govt issues instructions for lodging, disposing of complaints against public servants

BJP let down people of J&K on all fronts: Congress

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K Government on Monday called for discouraging the culture of anonymous or pseudonymous complaints even as it issued a slew of instructions for lodging and disposal of the complaints against a public servant.

Among others, the government said, complaints can be lodged with appropriate authority by addressing a written communication either directly or through electronic mode or on portal available for this purpose.

"Appropriate authority, after gathering information about corruption, malpractices and misconduct may take appropriate action under law against such public servants in a time bound manner," it said.

It however reiterated that anonymous or pseudonymous complaints or complaints "containing vague, frivolous, non-specific allegations should not be taken cognizance of". Further, it said, complaints about sub-judice matters should also not be entertained.

It reiterated guidelines

regarding disposal of anonymous and pseudonymous complaints in the Departments and autonomous bodies etc.

It reiterated General Administration Department Circular (No. 29-GAD/Vig) of 2014 dated 31 July 2014, reiterated vide Circular (No. 22-GAD/Vig) of 2015) dated 10 July 2015 guidelines notified in consonance with those issued by the Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel & Public Grievances & Pensions, Government of India on 18 October 2013 and Central Vigilance Commission's circulars on 25th November 2014 and 7th March 2016.

"As a standard procedure in these matters, the first step is to verify whether the complaints are filed by citizens who have provided their particulars viz. name, address and contact number," the government circular reads adding, "In case, the com-

plaint is anonymous/ pseudonymous, the same is to be filed without any further action."

The culture of anonymous and pseudonymous complaints is to be discouraged, it said.

The complaints which have been filed by persons who have provided their identity should be processed in accordance with law, the circular reads further. "Where the complaints are genuine, due action is to be taken against the officers/officials under extant rules and guidelines issued by CVC as well as GAD."

The government also clarified that there are specific provisions in law to deal with fake, frivolous and motivated complaints.

"Importantly, in cases where it is established that the complaints were lodged with a malafide intention or an ulterior motive to harass or harm an innocent Government servant, necessary

action should be taken against such Complainants as per law."

It said under section 182 of Indian Penal Code, a person making a false complaint can be prosecuted.

"Under section 195(l)(a) of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 a person making a false complaint can be prosecuted on the basis of a complaint lodged with the court of competent jurisdiction by the public servant to whom the false complaint was made or by some other public servant to whom