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LG calls for...

Chief Secretary; Dr RP Singh, Chairman JKPCIL; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Departments and Power Corporations; Chief Engineers and senior officers attended the meeting, in persona and through virtual mode.

Two LeT terrorists...

killed terrorist Jazim Farooq alias Abrar was involved in case FIR No. 14/2023 under section 302, 307 IPC, 7/27Arms Act, 16, 18, 20 UAP Act of Police Station Litter pertaining to the killing of Kashmiri Pandit Sanjay Sharma. Terrorist Marifat Maqbool was involved in case FIR No 202/2022 under section 20, 38 ULA(P) Act of Police Station Shopian, Case FIR No. 250/2022 under section 307 IPC, 7/27 IA Act, 16, 20, 38 ULA (P) Act.

It is pertinent to mention that another terrorist, Aqib Bhat of Malangpora Pulwama involved in killing of Late Sanjay Sharma was already killed in Padgampora encounter in the month of February 2023.

Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. The recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. ADGP Kashmir congratulated the joint team of Police and security forces for conducting successful operation without any collateral damage and termed the operation as a big success. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

President on 2...

the movement of pilgrims. According to officials, the pilgrims coming from Sanji Chat route in helicopters or through ponies and those from Hinikoti route in battery operated vehicles and 'palkies' will be able to use the skywalk to reach Bhawan area.

They said 6000 pilgrims at a time can walk their way into the shrine using the skywalk which will help in speedy movement of the yatra and thus the average time spent by a pilgrim in Bhawan area is expected to be reduced.

The skywalk was planned to help decongestion and better crowd management at Bhawan during peak periods, the officials said, adding wooden flooring was used on the deck for comfortable movement of barefoot yatris.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday chaired a meeting in Srinagar to review the arrangements ahead of the visit of Murmu.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh had also chaired a meeting of top officials to review security arrangements for the visit of the president.

Israel pounds Gaza...

Aid organisations pleaded for the creation of humanitarian corridors to get aid into Gaza, warning that hospitals overwhelmed with wounded were running out of supplies. Israel has stopped entry of food, fuel and medicines into Gaza, and the sole remaining access from Egypt shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit near the border crossing.

The war began after Hamas militants stormed into Israel on Saturday, bringing gunbattles to its streets for the first time in decades. More than 1,800 lives have already been claimed on both sides, and perhaps hundreds more. Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza hold more than 150 soldiers and civilians hostage, according to Israel.

The conflict is only expected to escalate. Israel expanded the mobilisation of reservists to 360,000 on Tuesday, according to the country's media. After days of fighting, Israel's military said Tuesday morning that it had regained effective con-

trol over areas Hamas attacked in its south, and of the Gaza border.

A looming question is whether Israel will launch a ground offensive into Gaza a 40-km-long (25-mile-long) strip of land wedged among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is home to 2.3 million people and has been governed by Hamas since 2007.

On Tuesday, a large part of Gaza City's Rimal neighbourhood was reduced to rubble after warplanes bombed it for hours the night before. Residents found buildings torn in half or demolished to mounds of concrete and rebar. Cars were flattened and trees burned out on residential streets transformed into moonscapes.

Palestinian Civil Defence forces pulled Abdullah Musleh out of his basement together with 30 others after their apartment building was flattened.

"I sell toys, not missiles," the 46-year-old said, weeping. "I want to leave Gaza. Why do I have to stay here? I lost my home and my job."

The Israeli military said it struck hundreds of targets in Rimal, an upscale district home to ministries of the Hamas-run government, universities, media organisations and the aid agency offices.

The devastation signalled what appeared to be a new Israeli tactic: warning civilians to leave certain areas and then hitting those areas with unprecedented intensity. On Tuesday afternoon, the military told residents of another nearby neighbourhood to evacuate and move into the centre of Gaza City.

"There is no safe place in Gaza right now, you see decent people being killed every day," Hasan Jabar, a Gaza journalist, said after three other Palestinian journalists were killed in the Rimal bombardment. "I am genuinely afraid for my life."

Tuesday afternoon, Hamas fired barrages of rockets toward the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon and Tel Aviv. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The bombardments and Israel's threats to topple Hamas sharpened questions about the group's strategy and objectives. But it is unclear what options it has in the face of the ferocity of Israel's retaliation and the potential of losing much of its government infrastructure.

Hours after Saturday's incursion began, a senior Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri said the group had planned for all possibilities, including "all-out war," and was ready to suffer "severe blows".

Desperation has grown among Palestinians, many of whom see nothing to lose under unending Israeli control and increasing settlements in the West Bank, the blockade in Gaza and what they see as the world's apathy. (AP)

Transparency, speed of...

monitoring the progress of various projects is crucial for converting the programmes into desired outcome on the ground and to achieve the social objectives," he said.

The Lt Governor asked the Departments to create a comprehensive plan to avoid delays and create more fiscal space.

He directed the Labour & Employment Department to submit a proposal for the establishment of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospital in Srinagar.

The Health Department was directed to focus on increasing the Utilization of SEHAT Golden Card in Government Hospitals.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and senior officers.

Earlier, Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Finance Department outlined various critical components of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the UT of J&K.

Nature of offence...

During the arguments, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju, appearing

for the SFIO, said the allegations related to siphoning off over Rs 5,000 crore of public money.

"Today, I keep telling you, I think world over technology is used. The problem is some of these people are ahead of the State in technology itself. Therefore, the nature of these offences is changing," Justice Kaul observed, adding, "Your side has to control it".

Referring to the advent of artificial intelligence and other technological advancements, he said, "All these spectrums will have to be dealt with".

Raju told the court the large number of accused and multiple applications filed by them were impeding the process of framing of charges.

"In our view, that is an aspect to be controlled by the trial court," the bench said.

The ASG said in several cases, proceedings get delayed as the accused ask for documents which the prosecution has not relied upon in the charge sheet.

"If that be the position, it is always open for the prosecution to argue this aspect before the trial court as to what should be the approach of the trial court in respect of supply of documents," the bench said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, said sometimes unrelated documents are required for the purpose of seeking discharge or bail in a case.

While observing that the petitioner was entitled to bail, the bench said apart from other conditions, he would deposit his passport with the trial court and one out of the two sureties will be given by his "blood relation".

Union MoS visits...

prominent figures, also took a pledge to serve the nation wholeheartedly.

The event was attended by several prominent figures, including MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, DDC Chairman Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Vice Chairman Balwan Singh, as well as members of BDC, PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions), local residents, and officers from the District Administration.

Later, Meenakashi Lekhi proceeded to Purnamandal, where she visited the ancient Shiv Temple. She offered prayers at the temple and inspected the temple site.

While inspecting the old temple, Union Minister directed for implementation of the already approved DPR for development of the temple complex. She also instructed for effective utilization of state land for development and the rejuvenation of Sarais. Additionally, she called for creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for restoration of old buildings.

Meenakashi Lekhi interacted with a delegation of PRI members and listened to their issues. She emphasized the importance of converting Purnamandal into a plastic-free area through PRIs' engagement, awareness campaigns, installation of waste trolleys at all main sites.

She also stressed on the promotion and involvement of local SHGs in preparing Pooja materials like chunris. She instructed that a pledge for cleanliness be taken, involving locals and pandits of Purnamandal not to pollute Devika, the holy river.

Director Archives Pardeep Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, Joint Director Tourism Sunaina Mehta and other senior officers of district administration Samba were present on the occasion.

Illegal structure used...

was later on taken over by NIA and during investigation, NIA arrested the administrators of said Dar-Ul-uloom namely Naseer Molvi resident of ChewaKalan and his associate namely Imtiyaz who are still under custody. The Dar-Ul-uloom comprising three single storied rooms were built on Govt land and were redundant since occurrence of encounter i.e. March 11/12, 2022. Accordingly, on the recommendations of NIA these illegal structures on Govt land got demolished tonight by revenue authorities under Police protection, the officials added.

HC directs respondents to consider plea raised by petitioners for issuance of arms/ammunition dealership

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court directed respondents to consider the plea raised by the petitioners for issuance of the arms/ammunition dealership in terms of the new rules as per Form VIII, provided they have completed all the formalities. The respondents shall consider the cases of the petitioners on 'case to case' basis, within a period of four weeks from the date a certified copy of this judgment is supplied to them for compliance. Meanwhile, the petitioners, subject to satisfaction of the requisite conditions, required under new Rules, be permitted to carry on their businesses.

This significant order has been passed in a petition filed by petitioners,

having been licensed as arms and ammunition dealer in terms of the Arms Act, 1959 read with Arms Rules, 1962, pleading identical and joint cause of action based on same facts and grounds. The petitioner has moved this petition seeking following writs: quashment of Circular No.01-Home of 2023 dated 10.04.2023 issued by the Respondent No.1 whereby the directions have been issued to the District Magistrates that arms and ammunition dealers be not allowed to carry on their trades and transactions in absence of valid Arms License in Form VIII as prescribed under the Arms Rules, 2016 till the licensing process in favour of the intending prospective licensees is completed in terms of the Arms Rules, 2016 along with other directions contained in the said circular.

DB closed PIL on lack of parks and gardens in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, closed the PIL on lack of parks and gardens in J&K with the observations that this Court is satisfied that the authorities are doing the needful for maintenance and preservation of the green space and parks. Division Bench is of the view that it may not be necessary for us to monitor the same at this stage and accordingly, the present PIL is closed with the above observations. DB further said that however, it goes without saying that if the authorities do not continue with or fail to maintain and preserve the green space and parks, liberty is granted to the petitioner for reactivation of the PIL.

When the PIL came-up for hearing, Division Bench observed that the matter pertains to lack of green space and parks, especially in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu. In this context,

reports submitted by the authorities on 03.10.2023 concerning Srinagar and on 03.03.2023 concerning Jammu, highlight the various measures taken to maintain and preserve parks and gardens in and around the city of Srinagar, as well as in Jammu, in response to the orders from the Court. The relevant portion of the report dated 03.10.2023 is quoted below: Before proceeding further, it is submitted before this Court that the answering respondents have successfully completed the Tulip Show 2022 with the concerted efforts of various wings of administration. The Tulip garden has earned a prestigious spot in the World Book of Records (London). This has been a monumental recognition of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir hailing the Tulip garden as Asia's largest tulip paradise, adorned with 1.5 million tulip bulbs. Copy of certificate annexed herewith as R-1.

The answering respondent submits that out of the 04 Mughal Gardens namely

Nishat, Shalimar, Cheshmashahi and Pari Mahal, that have been placed in tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, a pilot project has been undertaken by the department of Floriculture and JSWF (a public charitable trust) wherein a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 28/07/2021 for a collaborative partnership for the conservation and maintenance work at the select sites of Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh. The updated status of project commissioned with the JSWF is annexed herewith as R-2."

The relevant portion of the report dated 03.03.2023 in respect of Jammu Division, is that the Director Floriculture has submitted an action taken report on 10.10.2022 wherein he has submitted that the department is presently maintaining 64 Nos of Parks/Gardens in the Jammu Division having area of 1898.74 Kanals and; single use plastic and other plastic material is strictly prohibited in all the existing parks and Gardens maintained by

the Department & Signage.

All the existing Parks and Gardens maintained by the Department have been provided with Grill fencing so that no vision is obstructed from the outside and; There is no encroachment in any of the parks/Gardens maintained by the Department as per the report of the field officers. Copy of the report is enclosed by him. The Toilet facility and Mali sheds have been provided at appropriate places and wherever feasible in major parks and Gardens maintained by the Floriculture Department. Moreover, all the Parks and Gardens maintained by the Department have well constructed pathways.

Department has provided Garden Shredders as well as constructed compost pits in major Parks and Gardens maintained by the Department for disposing of garden waste. Moreover, Department will also install compost plants/pits shortly in the remaining Parks and Gardens for dumping the garden waste.

The ramps for disabled and

physically challenged persons wherever required have been constructed in most of the existing Parks and Gardens maintained by the Department. However wing of the Department has also been requested for construction of the ramps for disabled persons in the left out parks also is kept in the Capes Budget of the Department for the year 2022-23. That the Sainik Co-operative House building Society Ltd Jammu submitted that vide Government Order No. 27-JK(Flori) of 2020 dated 22.12.2020, 240 Parks of Housing and Sainik colony were transferred to the Urban Local Bodies copy of the letter along with Government Order are enclosed as Annexure-C. That the Municipal Corporation Jammu furnish the report on 23.01.2023 in compliance to the High Court directions and instructions issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu as under:

The directions were passed to the Engineering wing of Jammu Municipal

Corporation for construction of Compost Pit in every park and will be done as per the availability of funds. Jammu Municipal Corporation has installed dustbins in most of the parks and process of procurement of dustbins for leftover parks is also going on. The directions were passed to the Engineering wing of Jammu Municipal Corporation for construction of ramps/toilets as well as proper pathways wherever feasible. Also matter taken up with Social Welfare Department for identification of suitable Parks for ramps. Notices regarding unauthorized construction, if any, in parks maintained by JMC have been issued from time to time and timely action are being taken regarding all complaints. Proper Roaster has been prepared by JMC for plantation/maintenance of all JMC parks. Letters were also written to JDA, J&K Housing Board & Administrator, Sainik Board for proper maintenance of these parks.

DDC member initiates water pipeline project in Maira Mandrian



DDC member Suresh Sharma starting pipeline project.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Bhartiya Janata Party and DDC member Suresh Sharma initiated the work for laying of water supply pipe in Maira Mandrian Panchayat of Chhamb assembly constituency, which will be completed at the cost of rupees one crore seventy five lakh under Jal Jeevan Mission.

This pipeline will be laid in Maira Mohalla, Thanger, Mohalla Pura Singh, maira Sathar, Mandrain Mohalla Nargada, Centre Mohalla Rehani, Mund Mohalla Thanger and SC as these areas had acute shortage of water due to over loading of pipes. Suresh Sharma, also addressed the public on this occasion and disclosed that

soon a tubewell will also be set up in Maira Mandrian having fifty thousand Gallan capacity reservoir in Maira and thirty thousand Gallan capacity reservoir in Mandrian. On completion of the work of this tubewell the panchayat will get big relief from scarcity of water.

BDC Sushma Devi, BJP Mandal President Dr. Ram Lal Sharma, mandal vice president Ashok Purohit, Mandal General Secretary Master Chanchal Singh, Panch Shakti Bhagat, Jyoti Devi, Sudesh Bhagat, Vijay Bhagat, Sikander Dev, Balwant Singh, departmental officials and a large number of prominent persons of the Panchayat were present on the occasion.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: In observance of "World Mental Health Day," District Mental Health Program officer Rajouri Dr Iqbal Malik in collaboration with the Tehsil Legal Service Committee Nowshera, organized an event at Sub District Hospital Nowshera to raise awareness about mental illnesses. The event was conducted under the direction of Director of Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Rajeev Sharma, and Chief Medical Officer, Rajouri, Dr. Rajinder Kumar.

During the event, He delivered a PowerPoint presentation and interacted with ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, prominent citizens, PRI members, NGOs, providing a comprehensive lecture on mental disorders. He emphasized that government efforts alone are insufficient to address this sensitive issue; the entire society must unite and contribute to eradicating this debilitating disease.

He highlighted that according to the World Health Report of 2001, the prevalence of mental disorder



District Mental Health Program officer Rajouri Dr Iqbal Malik speaking during the programme.

ders in the adult population ranges from 10 to 15%, contributing to 20% of the economic burden in India. The statistics show that 1 in every 5 Indians is grappling with some form of mental disorder. Additionally, 25% of patients seeking primary healthcare exhibit one or more mental disorders, and 1 in 4 families have at least one member with a mental disorder at any given time.

Dr Iqbal further stated that mental and neurological conditions account for 30.8% of all years lived with disability. Depression stands out as the leading cause of disability, comprising 12% of the total, and

ranks as the fourth leading cause of burden among all diseases. By 2020, it is projected to rise to the second leading cause of burden among diseases.

Mentally ill individuals are often neglected due to supernatural beliefs, misconceptions, and stigma, resulting in 90% of patients not receiving the necessary medical help. Dr. Malik urged people to seek treatment for mental illness, emphasizing that it is a curable condition.

Dr Chander Parkash Zonal Medical Officer Health SDH Nowshera concluded the program with a vote of thanks.