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### Making J&K disaster...

mitigate impacts, he said.

The Lt Governor called for accelerated action to tackle concerns highlighted in this year's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction theme, 'Fighting inequality for a resilient future'.

"Our priority is to strengthen the system of early warning, early action, resilient infrastructure and collaborative action by all stakeholders to ensure no precious life is lost. Our focus should be on protecting marginalised communities for resilient development and quick recovery," he said.

He directed the J&K Disaster Management Authority to prepare a blue-print on a robust mechanism to provide access to information, essential services and early warning in the event of a disaster.

The Lt Governor also suggested for constituting disaster management committee in every Panchayat falling under disaster-prone areas. The committee may include members of youth clubs, voluntary organizations, elected public representatives and Aapda Mitra. Jan-Bhagidari will play a crucial role in preparedness and disaster risk reduction, he added.

Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B) department threw light on the augmentation of snow Clearance equipment and achievements registered under PMGSY in J&K.

On the occasion, a report on Socio-economic impact Assessment of PMGSY in Kashmir Division was presented. Seven other reports and two pamphlets were also released by the Lt Governor.

Kunal Satyarthi, Joint Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University; Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction; senior officials of UT and Police administration, faculty and students of University of Kashmir were present.

### Couple found dead...

"Police teams have rushed to the site for taking possession of the body and investigation. Any other detail will be shared later on," the official further said.

### Diagnostic centres, labs...

Registry (HFR). This step has been initiated in order to streamline and bring transparency in the delivery of healthcare services by private sector partners. The step shall also enable the general public to access verified private health facilities by mapping them on the HFR of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. Simultaneously, the private heath care facilities shall also register the workers/ staff on the HFR so that verified health professionals are working in the private sector.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Health ecosystem has been implemented by the Government of J&K in July, 2022 and 100% Government Health Facilities have been verified and registered on the HFR portal. 82% of the Government Doctors have been registered on the HPR and 78 Lakh ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) Ids have been created.

100% empanelled Hospitals under the AB-PMJAY have also been verified and registered on the ABDM Digital portal. The Scan & Share queue less OPD token system has generated more than 12 lac tokens which has provided as a huge relief to the patients who used to stand in long queues outside the hospitals.

### Modi says IMEEC...

business by making logistics more efficient, curtail damage to the environment and also create a lot of jobs, Modi said addressing the summit, which had delegates from over 70 countries.

He said that as the Silk Route of the past changed the economy of many countries, this corridor too will transform the picture of global trade.

The PM said the world order is changing post-Covid and the entire world is looking towards India with new aspirations. He added that the domestic economy is continuously getting stronger to be the third largest.

Very few countries are blessed with development, demography, democracy and demand, Modi said, inviting global investors to be part of India's growth journey, wherein the country aspires to break into the league of 'developed' nations in 25 years.

He stated that India's economy is constantly strengthening at a time when the world is dealing with economic crisis, and said the day is not far when India will become one of the top economies in the world.

Underscoring the role of sea routes in global trade, the prime minister emphasized the need for a reliable global supply chain in the post-Covid world.

Modi listed the systematic steps undertaken to strengthen the sector in the last few years and underlined the transformative impact of the historic G20 consensus on the proposed India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor.

He said that Next Generation Mega Port, International Container Trans-shipment port, island development, inland waterways, and multi-modal hub will be undertaken under this leading to a reduction in business cost and environmental degradation will improve logistical efficiency and create jobs.

The prime minister reiterated that investors have a great opportunity to become part of this campaign and join India.

Modi said his government has been working to strengthen the maritime sector in the last 9-10 years, and added that whenever India's maritime capabilities have been strong in history, the country and the world have benefitted from it.

In the last decade, major ports' capacity has doubled, turnaround time for container-ers has come down to 24 hours from 42 hours in 2014, thousands of kilometres of roads have been built for better port connectivity, Modi said, pointing that employment generation and ease of living are the primary drivers for these efforts.

'Ports for Prosperity' and 'Ports for progress' are a vision for the government, Modi said, adding that the mantra is to 'Make in India, make for the world'.

Without specifying a timeline, Modi said the government will develop shipbuilding and repair centres across the country.

Building the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Virat is a testament to the country's capabilities, he added.

Four global ship leasing companies have registered with the GIIFT-IFSC, Modi said, exhorting more entities in the ship leasing trade to set up business in India's only IFSC in Gujarat.

He said India's large coastline, strong riverine ecosystem and rich cultural heritage create great possibilities for maritime tourism. A cruise terminal is being built in the financial capital, while similar facilities have come up in Visakhapatnam and Chennai, he said.

Terming the 5,000-year-old Lothal dockyard as the 'cradle of shipping', Modi said a National Maritime Heritage Complex is also coming up at the site in Gujarat.

He also noted that the country has started the world's biggest river cruise service to promote maritime tourism.

Talking about the government's focus on the ship-building and repair sector, the prime minister said that indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant is proof of India's capacity.

"India is going to become one of the top five ship-building nations in the coming decade. Our mantra is 'Make in India - Make for the world'," the prime minister said.

He said that the government is working to bring together all stakeholders in the sector through maritime clusters.

"We are moving towards a future where the blue economy will be the medium to create a green planet," he said.

He underlined that coastal shipping Modes are also being modernised and said that the coastal cargo traffic has doubled in the last decade, thereby providing a cost-effective logistic option to the people.

On the development of inland waterways in India, the prime minister said that cargo handling of national waterways grew by four times.

### ACB arrests Patwari...

Rs 50,000 from him and told him that he will be given seized items back and will be allowed to work also if he pays the bribe money.

On this complainant pleaded that he cannot pay huge bribe and it was later on negotiated for Rs 30,000, official said.

As the complainant was not interested in paying bribe under these circumstances, he approached ACB and filed a written complaint against Patwari for demanding bribe and requested for legal action, official said adding that accordingly on receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted by the ACB.

"The verification conducted reveal that the revenue team including Patwari Hashim Amin Malik has taken away the equipments, construction material from the complainant under construction site and Patwari concerned is now demanding bribe from complainant for allowing construction and releasing the material/equipments seized and has directed complainant to come with bribe money on Monday," official said.

On the basis of the findings and recommendation of the Verifying Officer as Prima facie offences under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 were made out against accused Public servant namely Hashim Amin for demanding bribe from complainant for allowing him to construct shops on his private land and release of his equipment/material seized, official said adding that accordingly a Case FIR No.

11/2023 was registered in Police Station ACB Baramulla under Section 7 of the PC Act 1988 and the investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigations, official said, the accused Patwari was arrested on spot while demanding bribe of Rs 30,000 from complainant and accepting same through his tout and his close accomplice Bashir Ahmad Mir, resident of Mughal Pora (Ex-Lumberdar), who is evading arrest.

Searches are also conducted in the residential house of the accused Patwari, official said adding that further investigations of the case are going on.

### ED conducts searches...

commercial activities. The premises being covered in Tuesday's search include those related to the trust, chairperson, land donors, power of attorney holders on behalf of land donors, witnesses who had executed the deeds and the then patwari who wrongfully issued fards for letting RB educational trust execute the deeds, they added.

According to an official handout, the ED conducted searches on eight premises, situated at different locations in Jammu, Kathua and Pathankot in the PMLA case of RB Educational Trust registered on the basis of FIR registered in the matter by CBI vide FIR No. RC0042020A0005 dated September 12, 2020. The chargesheet was filed on October 28, 2021 which established offences committed under Section 120-B of RPC and Section 5(1)(d) rws 5(2) of the J&K PC Act Samvat 2006 by Kanta Andotra (Chairperson RBET) and Ravinder Singh, then Patwari of Patwar Halqa Karandi Khurd and & Muthi Hardo in 2011, who in criminal connivance issued three fards of more than 329 Kanals of land during January 4,2011 to January 7,.2011 without mentioning details in respect of violation of ceiling limit of 100 standard kanals imposed under Section 14 of the J&K Agrarian Reforms Act 1976 thereby giving undue pecuniary advantage to the trust. Basis the three fards, the trust acquired multiple pieces of land approx 329 Kanals vide three gift deeds executed on January 5,2011 and January 7, 2011.

The main persons involved included Ch. Lal Singh, son of Saran Singh, ex-MP and ex-MLA and his wife Kanta Andotra , also an ex-MLA and Chairperson of the trust and the then Patwari.

During the course of investigation by the Directorate, it came to fore that the excess land is being actively used by the trust for running DPS Schools and other commercial activities.

### Portion of Jammu's...

stability audit of all of the religious places in Jammu."

He said instructions have been given to the JMC commissioner to conduct the audit of all temples, mosques, gurdwaras, churches and other religious places. The Rambhreshwar temple is located on Shalimar Road near the new secretariat and was built by Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1883.

### BJP working to...

earlier Jana Sangha have a history of continued struggle against the oppression and the wave of separatism initiated by the Nehru-Gandhi family and Abdullah family. He said that these families joined by the Mufti family have destroyed the socio-economic and security structure of Jammu and Kashmir through all these decades.

Chugh said that while the whole of the nation was integrated by Sardar Patel, Jammu & Kashmir was mishandled by Pt. Nehru, but now the unfinished task to integrate the J&K has been completed by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah.

He reiterated the BJP's stand that we would not allow even an inch of J&K's soil under the illegal occupation and recalled the struggle under the slogan 'Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan, Ek Samvidhan'.

Chugh said that these parties vitiated the atmosphere of J&K and made it volatile to the extent that it served as a source of Ak-47, bombs and grenades for the gullible youth. The BJP has now handed over the computer, development and the tourism to the youth for their better future, he added.

Chugh said that while the BJP is talking of development, NC, DP, and Congress talks of bringing back Article 370 and we are committed that we would never allow Article 370 to return, as it has caused enough devastation earlier. The J&K is on the way to a major transformation under the Modi government, added Chugh.

Chugh termed this as a struggle of ideologies, as BJP envisions strengthening democracy, and development and opposition parties want to promote nepotism at the cost of innocent lives. He said that these parties glamorized terrorists and separatism and we should not forget how these parties allowed the whole J&K to burn on the direction of Pakistan.

### ‘Corrupt people will...

to the people of this country," Chugh told reporters here.

"Corrupt individuals will face consequences. The ED is an independent agency that operates based on its own information and investigations," he said.

### SC refuses to...

judgement in which he broadly agreed with Justice Chandrachud's views.

Justice S Ravindra Bhat, who authored an 89-page judgement for himself and Justice Himu Kohli, disagreed with certain conclusions arrived at by the CJI including on applicability of adoption rules for queer couples.

Justice PS Narasimha said in his 13-page verdict that he was in complete agreement with the reasoning given and conclusions arrived at by Justice Bhat.

The judges were unanimous in holding that queerness is a natural phenomenon and not 'urban or elite' occurrence.

"There is no unqualified right to marriage except that's recognised by statute including space left by custom," Justice Bhat said in his judgement.

"An entitlement to legal recognition of the right to union akin to marriage or civil union, or conferring legal status upon the parties to the relationship can be only through enacted law. A sequitur of this is that the court cannot enjoin or direct the creation of such regulatory framework resulting in legal status," he said.

Justice Bhat made it clear that these findings should not be read as to preclude queer persons from celebrating their commitment to each other or their relationship in whichever way they wish within the social realm.

Referring to the statement made by the Centre during the hearing on the matter, he said " the Union shall set up a high-powered committee chaired by the Union Cabinet Secretary, to undertake a comprehensive examination of all relevant factors, especially including those outlined above. In the conduct of such exercise, the concerned representatives of all stakeholders, and views of all States and Union Territories shall be taken into account".

In his judgement, the CJI also recorded the assurance by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the Centre will constitute a committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for the purpose of defining and elucidating the scope of the entitlements of queer couples who are in union.

He said there is no universal conception of the institution of marriage, nor is it static.

"Under Articles 245 and 246 of the Constitution read with Entry 5 of List III to the Seventh Schedule, it lies within the domain of Parliament and the state legislatures to enact laws recognizing and regulating queer marriage," Justice Chandrachud said.

He said the freedom of all persons, including queer couples, to enter into a union is protected by Part III of the Constitution.

"The failure of the state to recognise the bouquet of entitlements which flow from a union would result in a disparate impact on queer couples who cannot marry under the current legal regime. The state has an obligation to recognize such unions and grant them benefit under law," the CJI said, adding the right to enter into a union cannot be restricted based on sexual orientation.

He said intersex persons, who identify themselves as either male or female, have the right to marry under existing law including personal laws which regulate marriage.

Observing that unmarried couples, including queer couples, can jointly adopt a child, the CJI said regulation 5(3) of the adoption regulations is ultra vires the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

"Regulation 5(3) of the CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority) regulations cannot be held void on the grounds urged," Justice Bhat said, striking a note different from Justice Chandrachud.

"At the same time, this court is of the considered opinion that CARA and the Central government should appropriately consider the realities of de facto families, where single individuals are permitted to adopt and thereafter start living in a non-matrimonial relationship," he said.

Justice Bhat said the State shall ensure that choice exercised by queer and LGBTQ couples to cohabit is not interfered with and they do no face any threat of violence or coercion.

"This court is alive to the feelings of being left out, experienced by the queer community; however, addressing their concerns would require a comprehensive study of its implications involving a multidisciplinary approach and sui-centric resolution, for which the court is not an appropriate forum to provide suitable remedies," he said.

In his verdict, the CJI passed a slew of directions to the Centre, states and Union Territories to ensure that the queer community is not discriminated against because of their gender identity or sexual orientation and also to take steps to sensitise the

public about queer identity, including that it is natural and not a mental disorder.

Justice Chandrachud directed the police machinery that there shall be no harassment of queer couples by summoning them to police station or visiting their places of residence solely to interrogate them about their gender identity or sexual orientation.

In his separate verdict, Justice Kaul said, "Non-heterosexual unions and heterosexual unions/marriages ought to be considered as two sides of the same coin, both in terms of recognition and consequential benefits."

He said legal recognition of non-heterosexual unions represents a step forward towards marriage equality.

"I believe that this moment presents an opportunity of reckoning with this historical injustice and casts a collective duty upon all constitutional institutions to take affirmative steps to remedy the discrimination," he said.

Justice Kaul said the duty of a constitutional court is to uphold the rights enshrined in the Constitution and to not be "swayed by majoritarian tendencies or popular perceptions".

In his judgement, Justice Narasimha said he was not oblivious to the concerns of LGBTQ+ partners with respect to denial of access to certain benefits and privileges that are otherwise available only to married couples.

"I am of the firm belief that a review of the impact of legislative framework on the flow of such benefits requires a deliberative and consultative exercise, which exercise the legislature and executive are constitutionally suited, and tasked, to undertake," he said.

The LGBTQIA++ persons, who had won a major legal battle in 2018 in the Supreme Court which decriminalised consensual gay sex, had moved the apex court seeking validation of same-sex marriage and consequential reliefs such as rights to adoption, enrolment as parents in schools, opening of bank accounts and availing succession and insurance benefits.

On May 11, the bench had reserved its verdict on the pleas after a marathon hearing for 10 days. The apex court had commenced hearing arguments in the matter on April 18. Some of the petitioners had urged the apex court to use its plenary power, "prestige and moral authority" to push the society to acknowledge such a union which would ensure LGBTQIA++ lead a "dignified" life like heterosexuals.

LGBTQIA++ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit, asexual and ally persons.

### Landslide blocks Jammu...

The weather office said light rain and snow can continue in some areas.

Officials have advised people to stay away from landslide-prone areas and overflowing drains, he said.

### If left unaddressed...

raising a voice in the United Nations about the plight of Palestinians.

"It is very unfortunate to see a marked change in India's stance on Palestine. India's stand on Palestine has traditionally been guided by the ideals of Nehru and Gandhi. Our people have historically been supportive of Palestinian people and its claims," Abdullah said.

### Rape accused dies...

Ulfat Hussain of Marhote village attempted suicide by hanging inside the lockup of Surankote police station on Monday," District Magistrate, Poonch Yasin M Choudhary said.

He said Hussain was implicated in a case of alleged abduction and rape of a woman and was apprehended by the police based on a complaint filed by the victim on October 9.

The family members of the deceased have requested a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Hussain as they allege custodial death.

SDM Mohd Jhangir Khan has been appointed as the inquiry officer to conduct a comprehensive magisterial enquiry into the matter, the official said.

### Two BSF personnel...

sources said a preliminary investigation suggested that the gunfire came from across the border.

They said the border guards were injured when their post in the Arnia area of R S Pura sector came under gunfire Tuesday evening.

The injured have been identified as Ct. Alok Saha , son of Anukul Saha, age 44yrs, resident of West Bengal, at present 120 Bn BSF R S Pura and Ct. Surjeet Vishwas, age 35yrs, resident of west Bengal.

Further details of the incident are awaited, the sources said.

## Drug peddler arrested, contraband substance recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police on Tuesday arrested a drug peddler in Ganderbal and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per details, on the directions of SSP Ganderbal Shri Nikhil Borkar, a police party led by SHO Police Station Safapora under the supervision of DySP Hqr's Ganderbal at a checkpoint established at Asham-Safapora crossing intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration number JK04A-8598, ridden by one person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During search, officers were able to recover contraband substance (Charas) from his possession. He has been identified as Yasir Hassan Parray son of Gh Hassan Parray resident of Parray Mohalla Asham Bandipora. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody. Motorcycle used in the commission of crime has also been seized. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 38/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Safapora & investigation has been taken up.

## Theft case solved; accused arrested, stolen mini bus recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Tuesday solved a theft case by arresting an accused and recovered stolen mini bus on hi disclosure.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at PP Greater Kailash by one person namely Surjeet Singh, son of Raghubir Singh, resident of near Rajan Bar Kunjwani bye pass produced a written application stating that some unknown persons had stolen his minibus(matador) bearing Registration number JK02BBB 9962 from Kunjwani. FIR No. 107/2023 under section 379 IPC was registered at Police Post Greater Kailash and investigation started.

After this, a team of Police Post Greater Kailash led by SDPO South Sachit Sharma assisted by SHO PS Gangyal Inspr Ajay Singh and In-Charge Police Post Greater Kailash PSI Puneet Sharma did strenuous efforts and with the help of CCTV footages of the area finally recovered the vehicle and arrested the accused person Mukesh Singh, son of Jagat Singh, resident of Ward no.6 near bala Sundri, Village Bohra, Kathua, J&K. During questioning accused confessed his involvement in the above case and on his disclosure stolen vehicle was recovered from his possession within 48 hours of the theft.

## Snatching case solved, 2 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Tuesday solved a snatching case within 48 hrs by arresting 2 accused persons.

As per details, on October 15, 2023, Anjali Sharma , resident of Trikuta Nagar reported that in evening hours that some unknown person snatched her purse containing cash and mobile phone from Bahu plaza. Upon receiving this information, FIR No. 246/2023 was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar and investigation was set into motion. After this, a team led by SDPO South Sachit Sharma assisted by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspr Pankaj Sharma analysed the CCTV footages of the area. Also Technical data was analysed and few suspects were rounded up.

Finally accused named Rahul Randhawa , resident of Valmiki Colony was arrested who confessed his involvement in the crime and on his disclosure he told that he had sold the snatched purse to another accused namely Shiv Shankar Ram, son of Ram Chandar Ram, resident of Bihat at present Valmiki Colony, working as labourer who was immediately arrested. On his disclosure snatched purse along with mobile phone and cash has been recovered from his possession.

