

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Eradicating terrorism in...

prosperity is a by-product of peace and harmony in the society. Peace shapes the new future, promotes the principle of inclusiveness and provides the necessary means to fulfill the aspirations of the young generations, the Lt Governor said.

I am confident that the new recruits will carry forward the glorious legacy of country's most courageous Police Force and give a befitting reply to enemies of the peace, the Lt Governor said.

New security challenges require modern-day policing. Strict and Sensitive, Modern and Mobility, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive, Techno savvy and Trained - SMART Policing envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the need of the hour to effectively deal with conventional and non-conventional threats, he said.

With our collective will and hard work, we must protect our civilizational heritage and build a strong and progressive J&K, he added.

At the Passing out Parade, the Lt Governor also talked about the prevailing peace and transformation in Jammu Kashmir.

A total of 510 recruit constables have completed their rigorous training at the Training School.

He congratulated the cadets and encouraged them to discharge their responsibility with highest degree of professionalism and commitment.

Dilbag Singh, DGP congratulated the passing out constables for becoming an integral part of Jammu Kashmir Police Force.

Mohammad Majid Malik, Principal STC Sheeri gave an overview of the training program and various activities conducted during the Training course.

The Lt Governor took the ceremonial salute and witnessed the impressive parade and demonstrations by the police personnel. He also felicitated the recruit constables who excelled during their training.

An oath was administered to the passing out constables for performing their duties with honesty and utmost sensitivity.

Safina Baig, Chairperson District Development Council, Baramulla; R.K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; senior serving and retired police & army personnel, PRI representatives, and family members of the passing out cadets were present.

All India Janambhumi...

Kheer Bhawani Mata Mandir at Tiker in Kupwara the next day and reached the frontier area of Teetwal on October 14.

The yatra reached Srinagar's Lal Chowk on Wednesday and would pay respect at Hanuman temple, and Zesta Devi temple, here as well as the Kheer Bhawani temple in Ganderbal.

Then it would proceed to Vaishno Devi, Katra in Jammu region of the UT.

Swami Govinand Saraswati Maharaja said the yatra aims to bring Bhakti awareness in the society and spread the message of Ramayana for bringing unity and glory to this ancient land as well as to invite people to Kishkindha.

"The aim is to make a temple in Hanuman Janambhumi at Kishkinde Karnataka like Ram temple at Ram Jhanambhooni. We are here to invite the people of Kashmir to Kishkindha to support the construction of the temple," he said.

Udhampur military station...

Best Green Station Awards during the Army Commanders' Conference #ACC in New Delhi. Udhampur Military Station was awarded the Trophy for 'Best Green Military Station' while Dehradun Military Station secured the "Second Best" award. Also, Bikaner Military Station was awarded with "Best Transformative Station" trophy," the Army said in a series of posts on X, formerly Twitter.

"General Manoj Pande #COAS awarded the 'COAS Flight Safety Trophy' for the year 2022-23 to '671 Army Aviation Squadron (R&O)' for maintaining the highest standards of flight safety & proficiency in establishing, managing & promoting a #Flightsafety culture," it said.

Over 1.27 lakh...

pilgrims have offered their prayers at the shrine since January this year. The highest number of over 11.95 lakh pilgrims was recorded in June, while the lowest of around 4.14 lakh was witnessed in February.

The pilgrimage is going on smoothly and all necessary arrangements are in place, the official said, adding that new facilities such as the much-needed skywalk at an elevation of 20 feet above the existing track came as a big relief to the devotees.

The officials said the skywalk is laced with modern facilities like wooden flooring, a waiting hall, seating arrangements for about 150 pilgrims, LED screens, resting rooms and two emergency exits.

The skywalk has an aesthetically designed entrance with an artistically embellished portrayal of 'Nav Durga' to give an enriched experience for devotees, the officials said.

The remodelled 'Parvati Bhawan' which included 1,500 digital lockers, a waiting lounge and washrooms, was aimed at consolidating multiple facilities under one roof to curtail the crisscross movement of devotees in the Bhawan area and channelise the devotees towards the skywalk, the officials said.

They said the retrofitted Parvati Bhawan is a free-of-cost facility and caters to around 10,000 pilgrims per day.

A 'Bhojanalaya' at Bharav Ghati was also introduced on the first day of the Navratra for the benefit of the devotees, the officials said.

Besides 12 viewpoints or refreshment units, the shrine board runs full-fledged Bhojanalayas at five places three at Bhawan and one each at Adkuwari and Sanjichhat -- to provide wholesome and hygienic food to the pilgrims on a no-profit basis. Expressing satisfaction over the arrangements, the pilgrims thanked the shrine board for continuously upgrading and expanding the infrastructure in and around the shrine.

"After a gap of nine years, I came to seek the blessings of Mata and was astonished to notice massive infrastructure development at the shrine and en route for the benefit of the devotees," Vijay Sharma, a resident of Delhi, said.

Sharma, who was accompanied by two of his friends, visited the shrine on the third day of Navratra and lauded the efforts of the shrine board for the hassle-free management of a heavy rush of pilgrims.

The main highlights of the nine-day event taking place in Katra the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine include Ramleela, an all-India devotional song competition, Bhagwat Katha, Prabhat Pheri, Shobha Yatra, laser show narrating "Mata Ki Kahani", wrestling competition, 'Hassaya Vyang' and a programme by specially abled children among others.

Border villagers in...

Pakistan signed a ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021, in which both nations agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

34 special trains...

if we feel that there is a need to rope in more special trains, we will definitely consider that too. As of now, I think it is sufficient," Chaudhuri said.

"Besides running special trains, we have decided to open special ticket windows and operationalise all existing windows to avoid long queues at booking counters," he said.

On the concern regarding the punctuality of these special trains, Chaudhuri said they will maintain the scheduled times of arrival and departure as much as possible and will not end up losing punctuality due to other important trains.

"These additional trains are as important as other trains for us and I will assure all the passengers who are planning to travel by special trains that their punctuality will be maintained," Chaudhuri said.

Mishra posted as...

in Sashastra Seema Bal. "Consequent upon the approval of the Competent Authority for appointment of Intiaz Ismail Parray, IPS (AGMUT: 2009), DIG (Training) Police Headquarters, as Deputy Inspector General in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), on deputation basis, for a period of five years from the date of the assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier; the Officer is relieved from the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, to enable him to take up the new assignment at the Centre," read an order.

"It is further ordered that Sarah Rizvi, IPS (AGMUT:2008), DIG IR, Jammu, shall hold the charge of the post of DIG (Training) Police Headquarters, in addition to her own duties, till further orders," it added.

DB directs J&K...

destruction by external forces. During this tumultuous period, many ancient temples, mosques, and gurdwaras were destroyed or dismantled. Although some temples were rebuilt and repaired after independence, numerous temples in the UT of J&K remain in a state of disrepair

During the 1990s, the erstwhile state of J&K endured over a decade of militancy. Many temples, already in a dilapidated condition, were further damaged and, in some cases, entirely destroyed. Illegitimate encroachment on temple lands became a

rampant issue during this period.

The petitioner actively sought information about temples that had been damaged, destroyed, or partially damaged due to militancy, abandonment, or other causes. The responses to the petitioner's Right to Information (RTI) inquiries provided detailed accounts of the condition of these temples.

The PIL has been initiated with the primary goal of compelling the respondents to undertake the necessary measures to safeguard, rebuild, and renovate the ancient temples in the Union Territory of J&K. Additionally, it aims to rectify the issue of encroachment on temple lands by individuals involved in land mafias and vested interests. The petitioner's core objective is to protect and conserve the ancient and venerable temples that grace the landscape of the UT of J&K. This also includes restoring and reconstructing religious Hindu temples currently in a state of disrepair, as no existing authority or statutory body is in place following the enactment of the J&K Reorganisation Act in 2019.

This PIL reflects a critical endeavor to preserve the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region by addressing the challenges faced by these ancient Hindu temples and ensuring their lasting protection and restoration.

Will examine whether...

certain parameters. In its last year's verdict, the top court had upheld the ED's powers of arrest, attachment of property involved in money laundering, search and seizure under the PMLA.

During the hearing on Wednesday, Mehta deprecated reconsideration of the 2022 verdict. "I am on the misuse and abuse of process of law," he said.

The bench told him that after hearing the parties, if it feels there was no need for reconsideration on any aspect, it may not revisit the verdict.

The bench spoke about how matters are referred to larger benches for reconsideration.

"If three judges feel some aspect requires reconsideration, we may refer it," it said.

"Can one file a petition tomorrow and say I don't agree with the same-sex marriage judgement? Can it be referred to a larger bench?" Mehta asked.

He said PMLA is not a "standalone offence" but a piece of legislation prepared in conformity with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

Mehta said FATF conducts mutual evaluation and seven members from different countries come and see if the anti-money laundering law is in tune with global standards. He said a country is graded after evaluation.

"Your lordships may await the evaluation otherwise there may be serious implications for the country," Mehta said, adding, "It may be in national interest to wait for a month".

He also asked whether a petitioner can approach a three-judge bench and challenge the same provisions on which another three-judge bench has already delivered a verdict.

"We are the final court. If there is a view taken and somebody says it may be reconsidered, it can be looked into," the bench said, adding, "We are not at all assuming that the judgement is not correct."

When Mehta said it was not an academic exercise and one has to be "alert and alarmed", Justice Kaul responded, "I have said I am alert, but not alarmed".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the petitioners, referred to some broad issues including that the apex court had said in its 2022 verdict that PMLA is not a penal statute.

"How is it (PMLA) not a penal statute?" he asked and added people are convicted and sentenced to jail for the offence of money laundering under the Act.

Sibal said another issue was when a person is summoned by the Enforcement Directorate, it is not known whether he or she has been summoned as an accused or as a witness.

He asserted the statute is not in consonance with the Constitution.

The bench, while observing that it may not be possible to hear so many petitions in the matter, asked the petitioners' side to have two lawyers who would argue for them.

It appointed advocate Sumeer Sodhi as the nodal counsel for the petitioners' side. Similarly, the bench also named another advocate who would be the coordinating counsel for the respondents.

The bench posted the matter for hearing on November 22 and said counsel for the parties may file short synopses of five pages each.

It also noted that a petition seeking review of the July last year verdict is pending in the top court.

"I have always believed things can be argued pleasantly," Justice Kaul said at the fag end of hearing, adding, "I will not let anyone control my court."

In August last year, the top court had agreed to hear a plea seeking a review of its July 2022 verdict and observed that two aspects-- not providing an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and reversal of the presumption of innocence -- "prima facie" required reconsideration.

The Supreme Court had in its 2022 judgement said ECIR filed by the ED cannot be equated with an FIR, and providing a copy of it to the person concerned in every case is not mandatory. The presumption of innocence is a traditional principle of Indian criminal law where an accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The reversal of presumption of innocence, on the other hand, makes it incumbent upon the accused to prove his innocence.

In its judgement, the apex court had upheld the validity of certain provisions of the PMLA, underlining it was not an "ordinary offence".

The bench had said authorities under the Act were "not police officers as such" and the ECIR cannot be equated with an FIR under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). It had said supply of an ECIR copy in every case to the person concerned was not mandatory and it was enough if ED, at the time of arrest, discloses the grounds of such arrest.

Govt approves Rs...

be awarded by March 2025, sources said.

The transmission line for evacuating the power will pass through Himachal Pradesh and Punjab up to Kaithal in Haryana where it will be integrated with the national grid.

An interconnection is also planned from the project in Leh to existing Ladakh grid so as to ensure reliable power supply to the Ladakh.

It will also be connected to Leh-Alusteng-Srinagar line to provide power to Jammu & Kashmir. The project will entail setting up of 713 km transmission lines (including 480 km HVDC line) and 5 GW capacity of HVDC terminal each at Pang (Ladakh) and Kaithal (Haryana), the release said.

The project will contribute to achieving the target of 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels by year 2030, it added.

Further, the project will generate large direct and indirect employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled personnel in power and other related sectors, especially in Ladakh region.

Govt hikes wheat...

one-and-half years.

The ban on wheat exports to control prices of wheat and wheat flour (atta) has been in place since May 2022.

The current increase in wheat MSP is the highest since 2015-16. The previous increase was in the range of Rs 100-110 per quintal announced for four marketing seasons -- 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24.

Asked about the impact of wheat MSP increase on food inflation, the minister said India has kept the inflation under check during and post pandemic period.

According to the Minister, the MSP of barley has been increased by Rs 115 per quintal to Rs 1,850 for 2024-25 from Rs 1,735 per quintal this year.

Among rabi pulses, the MSP of gram has been increased by Rs 105 to Rs 5,440 per quintal for 2024-25 as against Rs 5,335 per quintal in 2023-24 while that of lentil (masur) has been hiked by Rs 425 to Rs 6,425 per quintal from Rs 6,000 per quintal.

In order to promote oilseeds cultivation, the government increased rapeseed-mustard seed MSP by Rs 200 to Rs 5,650 per quintal for 2024-25 marketing season, from Rs 5,450 per quintal in 2023-24 season.

The MSP of safflower has been increased by Rs 150 to Rs 5,800 per quintal for 2024-25 from Rs 5,650 per quintal, Thakur said.

The minister also mentioned that the increase in the MSP of the rabi crops is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production.

In the last few years, the government has been promoting crop diversification towards oilseeds, pulses and millets to enhance food security, increase farmers' income, and reduce dependence on imports.

Admin prepares for...

these celebrations as it is the people eventually who are the ultimate beneficiaries.

He maintained that substantial changes have taken place in the social, economic, infrastructure and other sectors which need to be communicat-

ed. He asked them to encourage public to bring out videos of any change they have witnessed during this time and reward those coming up with quality feedback. He made out that peoples views about the change should be respected and recorded for making suitable interventions in future.

Dr Mehta asked the IT Department to launch competitions on the 'MyGov' portal for participation of general public. He also directed the Culture Department to hold cultural events all across the UT on this occasion and give opportunity to everyone to exhibit their creativity. He urged the Education Department to play its role in these celebrations by involving the students who are looking up forward to future well being.

He mentioned that besides ensuring transparent, responsive and accountable governance here by introduction of IT initiatives like e-Office, online services, BEAMS, PaySys and others, there have been massive infrastructure upgradations too.

He stated that earlier the projects completed in District Sector were just around 1500 which has taken quantum leap to around 43000 projects previous year. He noted that the J&K has accomplished the finishing of nearly 2 lakh projects during the past 4 years of becoming the UT.

Dr Mehta also stressed on highlighting the transparency with which recruitments have been made during past few years. He asserted that by any stretch of imagination the UT has been far better in providing better administration to its people sans any bias or corruption.

He advised all the Departments to prepare a document about its achievements and a video highlighting them. He asked them to put in public domain all the reforms, achievements and changes that have taken place from 2019. He told them to collaborate with the Information Department for reaching to people through ways they deem suitable for themselves. He impressed upon the RDD and ULBs to focus on the developmental scenario of Panchayats and Wards as narrated by people themselves along with publication of Department wise compendiums. The Departments were also said to lay focus on unity and celebrate the rich heritage and historical legacy of the UT. The School Education Department was asked to hold cultural events by student such as Painting Competitions, art & photography exhibitions, debates and quizzes where winners would be felicitated. The district administration would also carry out community service, donation drives in all the public institutions as part of celebrations.

Social media campaigns shall also be organized highlighting the UT's all round progress and development across various sectors with hashtags like #JKFoundationDay, #JKTowardsTransparency, #PovertyFreeJK, #JKPride and #UnityinDiversity by the administration at local, district and divisional level.

Dr Jaffar Akhone become CEC of 5th LAHDC Kargil

INC-NC Coalition forms 5th LAHDC Kargil

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: In Ladakh, the formation of 5th LAHDC Kargil completed with the election of Councillor Thasgam, Dr Jaffar Akhone as the Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor during the 1st Meeting of the LAHDC Kargil after the completion of the election process unopposed.

The Councillor Punchok Tashi from Padum Constituency and Nasir Munshi from Chaskore Constituency proposed the name of Dr Jaffar Akhone as the Chairman/CEC for 5th LAHDC, Kargil, after which Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shirikant Bala Sahab Suse announced the name of Dr Jaffar Akhone as Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil.

Principal & District Session Judge Kargil Iqbal Ahmad Masoodi Administered the Oath to the newly Elected CEC.

Dr Jaffar Akhone Joined the Office soon after the Meeting as he was taken to the LAHDC Secretariat Kurbathang in the form of a rally along with Supporters and Councillors.

It is pertinent to mention here that the INC-JKNC Collation after winning the majority of Seats in the Elections signed an Agenda of Alliance and decided to form the Council on equal sharing basis with holding the CEC seat for 2.5 years by each party.

Three charge-sheeted for Rs 22 lakh fraud in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet here against three persons for duping investors of over Rs 22 lakhs after inducing them to invest in a Jaipur-based private company in 2019, an official said.

The 940-page chargesheet was filed in the court of law against Ashok Shukla, resident of Z-11, Upper Ground A-1, Z-Block Dayalsar Road Uttam Nagar New Delhi-59, Permanent Address- village Kothiyahi Post Office Dileppur Distt. Pratapgarh, UP -23012; Sunil Vyas, son of Late Bhagwati Lal Vayas, resident of LU 105, Pitampura Nagar, District Park New Delhi-110088, Permanent Address- 45, Extn. Opposite UIT, Subhash Nagar, Bhilwara, Rajasthan - 311001 (now expired) and Pankaj Sharma, son of Des Raj, resident of Upper Harsath, Teh Ghagwal District Samba, a spokesperson of the agency said.

He said the case owes its origin to a written complaint lodged by Sanjeev Singh of Samba and others, claiming that Shukla along with Vyas who was the proprietor of Nexus Realcon (P) Ltd cheated them of their hard-earned money on the pretext of multiple returns of their investment on maturity.

The accused had arranged several seminars at Jammu alluring the complainants and other individuals to make investment into the above named private Ltd firm for multiple returns but on maturity of some of the investments made by the complainants they approached the accused inquiring about their returns and were shocked to know that the firm was closed and they have lost their investment, the spokesperson said.

On receipt of the complaint, he said a preliminary verification was initiated and the allegations were prima facie established under Section 420/120-B/RPC and subsequently the instant case was registered for in-depth investigation.

The spokesperson said during the investigation, oral, documentary and circumstantial evidence was gathered and it was found that the accused persons along with Pankaj Sharma had entered into criminal conspiracy, allured and duped investors.

Ajeet seeks change in school timings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTIWAR: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Sr. leader Ajeet Bhagat said that all the Government School and Private School found in around Shaheedi Chowk Kishtwar on Shaheedi Road, seeing the pressure of vehicles and the road jam and the road here.

Keeping in view the incident that happened to the girls and boys, it is requested from Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, SSP Kishtwar and Chief Education Officer Kishtwar that at least half an hour gap should be kept between the opening hours of morning and evening closing of all Government School and Private School so that the vehicular traffic system runs in better and efficient way and the pedestrians can also walk easily and the accidents that happen here can be prevented to some extent.



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Human Resources (Medical Section)
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar.
retireeinsurance@jkbmail.com

Renewal of Group Medical Insurance Scheme for retirees of the Bank for the year 2023-2024

The Group Medical Insurance (GMI) scheme for retirees of the Bank is due for renewal w.e.f **November 1st, 2023** and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has again hired services of existing insurer, "National Insurance Company" through the request for Proposal (RFP) process. Accordingly, all the retired employees of the Bank who are already covered under (IBA) Medical Insurance Scheme up to **31st October, 2023** and intend to continue with the Insurance Cover on revised premium rates & conditions, and those Retirees who have attained the age of superannuation after **31st October, 2022** may now opt/join the Medical Insurance Scheme cover as per terms and conditions of the scheme.

Retirees who are not covered under expiring Retirees policy 2022- 23 ONLY, can be covered under Retirees policy 2023-24 with Retiree Base policy and can also opt for TOP up policy.

Retirees who are not covered under expiring Retirees policy 2020- 21 and 2021-22 ONLY, can be covered under Retirees policy 2023-24 with Retiree Base policy ONLY. They will not be allowed to opt for TOP UP POLICY.

Those retirees who are willing to continue/Join the aforesaid Medical Insurance Scheme may visit/contact their nearest Branch for detailed guidelines regarding the subject matter, and for forwarding their consent to Medical Claims Section, Human Resources-Corporate Headquarters at retireeinsurance@jkbmail.com, by or before **25th October, 2023** in the prescribed format.

However, the insurance cover shall be subject to acceptance from the Insurance Company without any liability on part of the Bank.

DIP/J-3545-P/23

Registered Office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385GCC00048 ; T : +91 (0)94 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com