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J&K Admn to...

target of 2024, they said. Har Ghar Nal Se Jal', the ambitious campaign, lays out a target of installing functional household tap water connections in eight lakh houses within a period of one month by converging the efforts of all stakeholders, through the implementation support agencies (ISAs), into a mass programme, the officials said.

The Jal Shakti Department in Jammu and Kashmir envisages to provide functional household tap connection (FHTC) capable of providing quality drinking water meeting BIS 10500 standards at the rate of 55 litres per capita per day on a sustainable basis to all unconnected rural households in the UT with piped water supply, they said.

"A total of 5,774 pani samitis and village water and sanitation committees (VWSCs) have been framed and 5,427 village action plans (VAPs) have been prepared in 6,887 villages of J-K," the officials said.

A comprehensive action plan is being executed by the administration to ensure water security by empowering local communities, they said.

Further, gram panchayat and pani samitis are being sensitised for inculcating a sense of ownership and handholding them by conducting regular meetings by the Jal Shakti Department. Members of pani samitis have also been provided with field test kits (FTKs) and are being trained for conducting water quality tests on a regular basis, they added.

Under the mission, 2.16 lakh households were covered in 2020-21. A total of 35,920 households have been provided tap water connections in 2021-22 so far, the officials said.

The coverage has increased from 35 percent in August 2019 to 43 percent ending March 2020 to 56.40 percent as on date, which is above the national average of 44.08 percent, they said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said every individual has the right to clean drinking water. While substantial progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water in the last one and half years, we are making efforts to provide access to safe water for people living in the villages and far flung areas, he said.

PCI panel arrives...

Bhaskar', Gurbir Singh, member PCI and Working Journalist 'The New Indian Express' and Dr Suman Gupta, member PCI and Editor 'Jan Morecha'.

Any journalist or concerned person from media fraternity who desire to meet the team can contact at 9419007064 and 9906500058 for further information in this regard.

India, China agree...

situation and avoid any untoward incident.

"It was agreed that both sides should hold the next (14th) round of the Senior Commanders meeting at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement from all the friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols," it said.

The eastern Ladakh is officially referred to as Western Sector.

The last round of military talks on October 10 ended in a stalemate following which both sides blamed each other for the impasse.

In a strong statement after the 13th round of talks, the Indian Army said the "constructive suggestions" made by it at the negotiations were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor could Beijing provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

In its statement, the MEA also referred to the "agreement" between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during their meeting in September in Dushanbe that the military and diplomatic officials of the two sides should continue discussions to resolve the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh.

"Accordingly, the two sides had candid and in-depth discussions on the situation along the LAC in Western Sector of India-China border areas and also reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the Senior Commanders of both sides which was held on October 10," it said.

The Chinese foreign ministry said the two sides will continue to work hard to further ease the border situation and strive to "shift from emergency response to normalised control as soon as possible."

In a statement, it said the two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the recent situation in the China-India border areas at the meeting.

The Chinese foreign ministry said the two sides agreed to consolidate the existing achievements of disengagement, strictly abide by the agreements signed by the two sides and the relevant consensus reached so as to avoid recurrence of the situation on the ground.

"The two sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through diplomatic and military channels, actively prepare for the 14th round of military commander-level talks, and make efforts to resolve the remaining issues in the western section of the Sino-Indian border," it said.

Jaishankar and Wang held the talks in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in Galwan Valley on June 15 last year.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February and in the Gogra area in August.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

Rajnath inaugurates revamped...

but also beats in our hearts". "The historic battle of Rezang La, fought at an altitude of 18,000 feet, is difficult to imagine even today. Major Shaitan Singh and his fellow soldiers fought till 'last bullet and last breath' and wrote a new chapter of bravery and sacrifice," he said.

The defence minister tweeted that he paid tributes to the Indian soldiers who made their supreme sacrifice while reaching Rezang La, located amid the inaccessible hills of Ladakh, in the 1962 war.

"The Battle of Rezang La is considered one of the ten greatest and most challenging military conflicts in the world," he said.

The revamped war memorial has been thrown open at a time India and China have been locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for nearly one and half years.

The Indian Army had occupied a number of mountain peaks in Rezang La region in August last year following China's aggressive posturing and failed attempt to intimidate Indian troops.

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Mehbooba Mufti's brother...

been protesting against the killing of innocent civilians in Hyderpora on the outskirts of Srinagar city on Monday.

Four people were killed in Hyderpora by police, who dubbed them "terrorists" and "harbourers of terrorists". However, the families of these people have contested the claims, saying they were innocent people.

The police's contradictory statements in the case have also raised eyebrows, prompting political leaders, including Mehbooba Mufti, to stage protests against the incident. The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday ordered a magisterial probe into the encounter.

ADG BSF Western...

for heightened surveillance of all the vital installations for ensuring a secure environment for the people of J&K.

D K Boora, IG BSF Jammu frontier was also present on the occasion.

PAGD demands judicial...

by the Jammu and Kashmir government into the incident cannot be fair as it was against the principles of justice that the "accused administration investigated the charges against itself".

"The PAGD leaders also appeal to the people and leadership of the country to rise in defence of the democratic rights of citizens of India from Jammu and Kashmir as well. There is a need to share this pain of Kashmir before it is too late, he said.

"We appeal to them to stop this bloodshed before the patience spills over. Do not mistake the silence.... we won't allow Kashmir to be turned into a graveyard. The government should listen to this voice," he added.

The Left leader said the bodies of the three civilians -- Mohammed Altaf Bhat, Mudasir Gul and Amir Magray -- should be returned to their families for a dignified burial.

He said the PAGD leaders wanted to visit the bereaved families, but the security establishment refused the permission.

"We will also seek legal advice about approaching the Supreme Court... we will knock on every door," Tarigami added.

Strengthen Congress to...

Chief Minister, he contributed in earning district status to Samba and now it is time for people to repay with interest.

"Congress worked with enthusiasm at that time for the development of Samba, but in return the party did not get the expected support," he said taking a jibe.

Azad, after attending a public meeting at Dayala Chak in Kathua district, reached Samba town hall for a public meeting, where he met congress workers and called for strengthening the party. Speaking exclusively to a national TV channel after the rally , Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad asserted that his address in Kathua was not a show of strength after the leaders belonging to his camp resigned from their posts. He said that no one consulted him on the matter and came to know about it later as he was in a no connectivity area. "I came to know only after the world knew it," the former CM of J&K said.

"This was not a Shakti Pradarshan, I travel to internal areas of Jammu and Kashmir and for long it was not possible because of bifurcation of J&K and then COVID-19. This is just to know about people; inflation is rising and so is COVID-19, he added.

When asked about internal tussle, the Congress leader said, " Internal tussle is even there in the ruling party.

Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad demanded a judicial probe by a high court judge. "I made it clear, we respect Army, Police and CRPF, but people's trust is also important. If People don't trust them, then how is protection possible? If such

strenuous efforts and with help of CCTV footages of the area finally rounded up two suspects namely Mukul Kalotra, son of Bharat Bhushan, resident of Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu and Darshan Kumar, son of Basu Ram, resident of Khakharli, Gujarat at present Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu. During sustained questioning, the accused confessed his involvement in theft case and on their disclosure stolen items were also recovered. Further investigation of the case is going on.

Four vehicles involved in illegal mining, two illegal dumps of building material seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which dedicated police teams of Police Stations R S Pura, Police Posts Pounichak, Chatha and Chinore acted stringently on specific inputs and raided at different locations in their respective areas and seized four different vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicles included a tractor without registration number seized by Chatha Police; 2 tractor-trolleys with sand seized by Pounichak police; a tractor-trolley without registration number by Chinore police.

The vehicles were seized by Incharge Police Post Chatha Insp Rakesh Roshan, Incharge Police Post Poutni Chak PSI Nitish Khajuria and Incharge Police Post Chinore PSI Avtar Krishan in their respective jurisdictions.

Meanwhile, two different illegal dumps of sand and other building materials were also seized by a police team constituted under supervision of SDPO RS Pura Shabir Khan and led by SHO RS Pura Jammu Insp Jai Pal Sharma along with officers of Deptt of Geology and Mining. The seized dumps belonged to Gurmeet Singh, son of Dalip Singh, resident of Kotli Shah Doula R S Pura and Sukhdev Singh, son of Tara Singh, resident of Kirpind.

36 bovines rescued, 3 smugglers held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In continuation to thwart conspiracies of bovine smugglers within the district, Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP R C Kotwal on Thursday foiled bovine smuggling attempt in the Hiranagar by reseuing 36 bovines and arrested 3 smugglers.

As per the details, a team led by Insp Anil Kumar Sharma SHO Hiranagar under the supervision of SDPO Border Sachit Mahajan during Naka/checking duty at Dinga Ambh noticed a Canter (HP12E-7035) which was being driven by one Munwar Hussain, son of Haroon, resident of Kandla, District Sambli, Uttar Pradesh and his accomplice namely Abdul Rashid, son of Nazir Hussain, resident of Hariachack Tehsil Marheen and District Kathua. Police signalled the vehicle to stop for checking during which 20 bovines were found laden in it which were rescued on the spot. Duo was arrested and FIR No. 149/2021 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA was registered against them at Police Station Hiranagar.

While in another instance, a team of Police Station Hiranagar under supervision of Insp Anil Kumar Sharma SHO Hiranagar during Naka checking duty at Londi Morh noticed movement of another suspicious truck (JK02AT-4287) which was being driven by one Mohd Anwar, son of Makhan Din, resident of Dhral District Rajouri was signalled to stop for checking. During checking, the police team was able to find 16 bovines which were tied with ropes in a mercilessly manner. The driver was arrested and FIR No. 150/2021 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act was

incidents happen, people lose trust. It is important to gain people's trust. A judicial inquiry is needed from high court level, as a magistrate is a too small officer for that," he said.

SC refuses to...

have been taken for conducting the board exams in offline mode and the number of examination centres have been increased from 6,500 to 15,000.

The bench said it hope and trust that authorities will take all precautions and measures to ensure that no one is exposed to anything untoward in the examination process.

The top court was hearing a plea by six students seeking directions to the CBSE and the CISCE to issue a revised circular for conducting the ensuing class 10 and 12 board exams in the hybrid mode, instead of the offline mode only, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the hearing, senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the petitioners, told the bench that this is not adversarial and they are only requesting that option of hybrid mode be also provided to the students to appear in the board examinations.

Hegde said as per the experts, there is possibility of spread of virus at a place of congregation.

Mehta said there are around 34 lakh students who would be appearing in the classes 10 and 12 board examinations.

The exams (of CBSE) have already started on November 16, Mehta said, adding that the authorities have taken care of the concern raised about possibility of spread of the virus.

Let us be very practical about it. The examinations have already started. How can it be made online now, the bench asked Hegde.

The senior advocate said that COVID-19 is an evolving situation and the students should be given the option of appearing in the board examinations through hybrid mode.

It is too late now. It cannot be rescheduled at this stage. Examinations have started, the bench observed.

The plea, seeking a hybrid option in the ensuing board examination, had claimed that the entire exercise of the boards in conducting the term one or semester one examinations in offline mode only is patently unreasonable .

The petition, filed through advocate Sumanth Nookala, had said that the board exams be conducted in hybrid mode with an option to choose between offline and online examinations.

Consent assumes significance as exams directly relate to the mental health of the petitioners requiring a conducive and voluntary atmosphere to ensure a fair assessment. It is common knowledge that the third wave of COVID pandemic is predicted, it had said.

The petition had claimed that the proposed current system of offline examination is fraught with bad planning and lack of application of mind which will further adversely prejudice the students.

Even if the respondents (boards and others) wanted to conduct the examinations on the said dates, it had sufficient time and resources to plan it carefully and consider the concerns raised in the present petition, it had said.

Claims of house...

monitoring device was fixed to him to watch his movements.

House arrest in Kashmir is to give the person involved some movements of rest from their hectic schedule of indulging in India and forces' bashing. They can move around; draw strategies; talk to like- minded people or speak to the media.

In the instant case of Mehbooba Mufti, the UT administration must come out clean on what she has been claiming about her 'liberty' and 'restrictions on movement'. Such claims are generally aimed at becoming heroes and relevant to the people, who have already rejected the mainstream politicians for their doublespeak. Unless any strategy is behind the 'stoic silence' over house arrests, the government must deny the luxury of becoming heroes to the so-called mainstream leaders of the Valley, who tend to be on both sides of the fence. Their duplicity has cost the nation heavily. They play mind games. Once in power they say something and something different when they are out of the government. The long rope being given to these discredited leaders by the Centre has emboldened them so much that they carry out their 'motivated agenda' brazenly once getting rehabilitated in the power corridors. Time has come to call their bluff, especially at a time the situation is being vitiated in the Valley post Hyderpora encounter. The dormant political class is trying to capitalize on the situation by making claims of 'house arrests'.

J&K sees two...

division and 191 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 74 fresh coronavirus cases, followed by Baramulla district which registered 54 new infections.

There are 1,581 active cases in the union territory, while the count of recoveries has reached 3,28,783, the officials said.

The death toll from the pandemic now stands at 4,459.

Meanwhile, the officials said, the number of mucormycosis (black fungus) cases remained unchanged at 49 in the union territory as no fresh infection was reported.

5 IC/PPs among...

from P/P Talab Tillo to DPL Jammu; SI Rahul Dogra from P/P Sainik Colony to DPL Jammu (CRT Team); PSI Avtar Krishan from P/P Chinore to DPL Jammu; PSI Rajesh Kumar from Police Station (P/S) Gandhi Nagar to P/P Talab Tillo as Incharge; PSI Harjinder Paul Singh from P/S Bishnah to P/P SMGS Hospital as Incharge; ASI Mohd Younis Khandey from P/S Domana to PP Sainik Colony as Incharge; PSI Bhawani Singh P/S Bus Stand to P/P GMC as Incharge; PSI Amit Roshan from P/S Gangyal to P/P Chinore as Incharge; PSI Manoj Kumar from P/S Nagrota to P/S Akhnoor as I.O; ASI Hans Raj from P/P GMC to P/P Gadigarh as I.O; ASI Mukesh Kumar from DPL Jammu to SDPO Akhnoor office as Reader; and ASI Mitya Kumar has been transferred from P/P Gadigrah and posted to P/P GMC as I.O.

registered against him at Police Station Hiranagar.

Two narco smugglers nabbed with heroin, cash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In Its recent action against drug dealings and to neutralise activities of drug peddlers within district, Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP R C Kotwal on Thursday seized approx. 9.9 grams of Heroin (Chitta) narcotics, 2 Mobile Phones and cash amounting to Rs 5,000 while checking at Goond Naka in Nagri Parole area and arrested 2 persons.

As per details, a team led by Insp Rajesh Kumar Incharge Police Post Nagri Parole under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua Shammi Kumar during Naka checking duty at Goond area noticed a motorcycle (PB35AG-2601) moving from Punjab towards Kathua, which was stopped for checking. On thorough checking, a black pouch containing approximately 9.9 grams Heroin (Chitta) narcotics, a purse, two mobile phones (Red Mi and Samsung) along with cash amount of Rs 5,000 were recovered from possession of both persons identified as Sunny Kumar, son of Kaka Ram, resident of Taragarh Tehsil and District Pathankot and Dalbir Singh, son of Baldev Singh, resident of Digiana Camp, Jammu at present Ward No-16 Kalibari, Kathua. Both persons were arrested and FIR No 490/2021 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Kathua.

3 youth apprehended on way to cross LoC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA : Police on Thursday apprehended three youth who were in pursuit of crossing over the Line of Control to PoK for arms training for joining terrorism in Kashmir. SSP Kupwara Yougal Manhas said, "Following a specific information, police apprehended trio, all in their teenage from a hideout in Kupwara."

He further said that teenagers, all residents of Meej in Pulwama district had established contact with a terrorist commander posing himself as Tayab Farroqi operating from Pakistan and were on their way to cross LoC via Kupwara to meet him besides taking training in handling of arms to join back terrorism in Kashmir.

The trio was identified as Furqan Sultan Khanday (16-yr; a student of Class 10th) son of Mohd Sultan Khanday, Furqan Nazir Khanday (16-yr; a student of Class 10th), son of Nazir Ahmad Khanday and Kamran Sajad Sheikh (16-yr; a student of Class 10th) son of Sajad Ahmad Sheikh , all residents of village Meej Pampore of district Pulwama. On questioning, Police found that these youth from South Kashmir have been radicalised and motivated by terrorist Tayab Farooqi operating from Pakistan through social media platforms.

Assessing circumstances and tender age of these boys, who were found to be highly motivated and radicalised to join path of violence, Jammu and Kashmir Police in its endeavour to ensure peace and stability in Kashmir decided to counsel them for providing them chance to reform into responsible and peace abiding citizen. Relevantly, parents of the youth were called and after threadbare discussion and counseling, the teenagers were handed-over to them. Expressing gratitude, parents of youth thanked Jammu and Kashmir Police in preventing their wards from joining path of death and destruction besides giving them a chance to live a peaceful life.

Jammu and Kashmir Police appealed to all parents of the young people to monitor their activities to prevent them from falling prey to Pakistani agenda of destabilising peace in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and also appealed youth to not get misguided by propaganda of the terrorists. Youth should choose the path of peace and prosperity instead of destruction and violence.

