

Mudgal reviews preparations for celebration of Cooperative Week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of senior officers to review working of Cooperative Department besides assessing preparation for celebration of Cooperative Week here at Civil Secretariat Jammu. The theme for this year's cooperative week is 'Prosperity through Cooperation' which emphasizes awareness among the people regarding the welfare programmes of Cooperative department.



Secretary Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

all India Cooperative week will be focusing on highlighting issues like role of cooperatives in tackling Covid pandemic and strengthening health cooperatives, cooperative mar-

keting, processing and value addition, Ease of Doing Business for Cooperatives, role of cooperatives in fostering innovation, employment generation and bringing profes-

sionalism, entrepreneurship development and strengthening public-private partnership, co-operatives for youth, women and weaker sections

and related issues.

While reviewing progress on proposals of new registrations, Secretary emphasized that the registration of new cooperatives and cooperative societies should be completed within fixed timelines. The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies; Additional Registrars of both the divisions; Additional Secretary and Deputy Secretary Cooperative; Deputy Registrars; Assistant Registrars besides other senior officers of the department while officers from Kashmir division participated online.

Northern Army commander meets 'Veer Naris', veterans in Udhampur



Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Y K Joshi posing with 'Veer Naris' and others.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Y K Joshi on Tuesday honoured the 'Veer Naris' or widows of martyred defence personnel and assured them of all possible support for their efforts towards well-being and professional empowerment of their children.

The Indian Army has the ethos to respect martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the nation, and remains committed to welfare of veterans and veer naris, said the Public Relations Officer (PRO), Defence, Northern

Command.

Keeping up with the tradition, Lt Gen Joshi interacted with the Kargil war veer naris of the 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles at his official residence in Udhampur.

Lt Gen Joshi was the commanding officer of the unit during the war and has very closely been connected to Veer Naris and war veterans, the PRO said.

He has always been concerned about them and reaching out to them for welfare of their families and growth of their children.

The Veer Naris had visited the Vaishno Devi Shrine on Monday. The visit was facilitated by the Northern command headquarters, the PRO said.

The Army Commander honoured the Veer Naris, the official said.

Commending their resilience, he assured them of all possible support for their efforts towards well-being and professional empowerment of their children. During the interaction he thanked Vishal Batra, brother of Param Vir Chakra awardee Captain Vikram Batra, for sponsoring the visit.

Promotions of officials ordered in Social Forestry Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Department of Social Forestry, Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday ordered promotions of its officials at different levels. A total of 31 officials were cleared by the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) and based on the clearance by DPC, the Director, Social Forestry has issued orders of promotions of various cadres.

The officials have expressed happiness on

their promotions and have assured their authorities & the Government that they would rededicate themselves for outcome based working in the Department.

As per official handout, promotions were ordered after a long gap, the last DPC was held in 2014.

It is pertinent to mention that it has been the priority of the UT Government headed by Lieutenant Governor to initiate proactive measures for the welfare of

Govt. Employees. Holding of regular DPCs for affecting timely promotions of eligible employees has been regularly emphasised by Chief Secretary and Commissioner Secretary of Forest Department. The present promotion orders are the result of this proactive follow up, the handout added.

It was further informed that in coming weeks more such DPCs will be held and promotion orders issued in the Department.

LAHDC, Travel Trades, Public reject new logo of Tourism Department of Ladakh

■ TSEWANG RIGZIN

LEH: Launch of the new logo for the Department of Tourism of the Union Territory of Ladakh on the occasion of the celebration of two years in the Union Territory of Ladakh drew sharp criticism from all sections of the society.

Social media has been bombarded with memes, jokes and criticism on the newly launched logo since its launch.

The Department of Tourism also issued an official clarification on the process that was followed in selecting the final logo.

The logo was unveiled by Lt. Governor of UT of Ladakh, R.K Mathur, on the occasion of the celebration of two years of Union Territory of Ladakh and the designer was presented with a cheque of Rs 1 lakh.

Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh Tashi Gyalson on Tuesday wrote to Lt Governor, UT



Ladakh, R.K Mathur, requesting him for the withdrawal of the newly launched logo.

CEC said that the logo should represent Ladakh for tourism promotion as it becomes the face of the tourism industry of Ladakh.

"The approved logo does not represent 'essence of Ladakh' and now there is a huge public outcry from different walks of life about the logo. This office was also shown the entries of the logo for grading, after a grading system from the different stakeholder, the top ten logos should have been given to a

creative agency or expert committee to further work on it as it was understood as part of the procedure. In the light of above, I request your magnanimity to kindly have it re-examined to consider withdrawing the logo immediately and redesigning it," Tashi Gyalson requested Lt. Governor of Ladakh.

All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) and All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association (ALHGH) also had a meeting on Tuesday expressing anguish at the logo chosen to represent Ladakh Tourism.

The Department of

Tourism in its attempt to justify the selection of the logo claimed that it had undergone a series of selection processes through an open competition.

"Designs/proposals were invited through a notice issued on 29th May 2020. The date for submission of Logo designs/proposals was extended till 28th January 2021 through a notice issued on 13th January 2021 to ensure more competition and attract better designs," an official release said, adding that the prize money of Rs 1 lakh was also notified.

The Department received 183 entries from various parts of the country.

"The Department of Tourism constituted a committee comprising representatives and stakeholders from the concerned departments to select the Logo. The Department received 183 entries which were evaluated by the committee through a marking system. The top 30

entries were sent to LAHDC, Leh & Kargil for their inputs/markings after compiling the marks assigned by the committee members. After including the marks assigned by the LAHDC, Leh & Kargil, the final winner was selected. A transparent process was followed to choose the final Logo that was unanimously approved by the competent authority," said the official release.

While on the other hand, the travel trade associations, ALTOA and ALHGH, said that during the stakeholders' consultation meeting with the administration, members of both associations were called to shortlist logos from a submission of 100+ entries, most of which were submitted by non-professionals. Since none of the logos were up to the mark, the executive members decided to vote on the basis of the potential of various designers, and communicated with the department that the shortlisted designers should then work further to develop a better logo.

"We specifically asked the department to include expert level graphic artists and designers to assess the submissions based on creative and technical aspects. Our request was not heeded, and the final logo was released without any further consultation with stakeholders," representatives of the travel trade associations lamented.

They appealed to the authorities that the chosen logo be reconsidered, and that proposals be taken out to choose a professional branding agency, to ensure that a complete branding exercise be undertaken to represent Ladakh Tourism, the biggest industry for Ladakh and its people, and requested that the local stakeholders be kept involved in the exercise, so as to ensure an inclusive representation of the region.

Hybrid-terrorism-an emerging challenge for security forces

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: 'Hybrid-terrorism' is emerging as a new and major challenge for Jammu Kashmir police and other security forces these days. A hike in attacks on 'soft targets' in Valley, including Srinagar city, was witnessed in October 2021, and most of these incidents have been carried out by pistol-borne youths, who are not on list of terrorists available with security agencies.

The IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that this type of terrorism is undoubtedly a new challenge for security forces but we are completely prepared to tackle any type of challenge and curb

all forms of terrorism. Police is working hard to identify all such part-time/hybrid terrorists and strictest action shall be taken against them, he added.

Recently in a brief shoot out in Baramulla District, a terrorist was eliminated by security forces, who was believed to be a hybrid-terrorist. IGP informed reporters that he was the first 'hybrid-terrorist' who has been neutralised in Baramulla, and in coming days, security forces will tackle the situation easily and in a systematic manner. Kashmir Zone IGP informed media that killed terrorist was a 'hybrid-ter-

rorists' and was identified as Javed Ahmed Wani, resident of Kulgam.

According to police officials, in all recent terror attacks terrorists used pistols. "These attacks have been carried out by newly-recruited terrorists or those who are about to join terrorist ranks. In some cases, OGWs have been found directly involved as 'hybrid terrorists', as they not listed as ultras but are radicalised enough to carry-out a terror strike and then slip back into routine life," said officials, adding that new trend in terrorism has been started on directions of Pakistan and ISI.

Earlier, Police, in the first

week of September last year, declared Srinagar city as 'terrorist-free'. However, there have been attacks on civilians and policemen after that and officials believe that it is handiwork of 'hybrid-terrorists'.

Regarding recent target killings, the officials said that aim behind attacks is to spread fear and stop business and social activities. "We are tracking full-time terrorists but there is bit difficulty in tracking part-time or hybrid terrorists as they go back to their normal living after carrying out an attack. We are keeping full surveillance and will nab all of them soon," officials claimed.

To eradicate terror in J&K, pursue 'Ray and Gill' model

■ PROF HARI OM

Notwithstanding some result-oriented steps being taken by the powers-that-be at the centre and in the state after the abrogation of seditious Article 370 and discriminatory Article 35A, terrorists, both local and foreigner, continue to bloody and convulse the social and political scene of the sensitive and strategic border state in general and Kashmir Valley in particular. The October 2021 alone witnessed martyrdom of 12 armed forces personnel, including two JCOs, and brutal murders of 13 innocent civilians, including a Sikh female principal and five non-local labourers. 19 terrorists were also liquidated by the security forces. The targeted killings of non-Muslims triggered migration of the original inhabitants of Kashmir; Hindus, and non-locals from Kashmir. Reports suggest that "around 10,000 of them quit Kashmir within the first two weeks of (gruesome) killings" and "over 350 Kashmiri Hindu families left Kashmir in the same period".

Why has the Indian state failed to eradicate the cult of terror in J&K, motivate over 5 lakh Hindus, who migrated to Jammu and other places

in January 1990, to return to Kashmir, and establish the authority of the state in the real sense of the term? The reasons are not really difficult to fathom. The most important being the failure of the authorities at the centre to call the problem in Kashmir by name and tackle it accordingly, as also its inability to rein in the Valley-based ruling elite known for its very friendly attitude towards the hostile nations and terrorists and separatists of all varieties and the manner in which the supporters and promoters of radical Islamists in the establishment helped them muddy Indian waters and disturb the state's sensitive socio-religious and political equilibrium.

One can catalogue here umpteen instances to establish that while New Delhi consistently dithered; empowered and promoted the subversive ruling elite; and failed to rein in that section of bureaucracy which willfully violated the service rules to tarnish the country's image in the eyes of the international community, the governing class in Kashmir left no stone unturned to allow the situation to deteriorate and communalise and create an impression in the Valley that the Indian presence in J&K was illegal, unconstitutional and against the will of the constituencies it repre-

sented, and continues to, represent.

A reference to just four or five instances in this regard would be in order. One, many, who were involved in bomb blasts, including the ones in Baramulla in the 70s, instead of being punished, were rewarded. Some became even ministers. Two, the Kashmiri ruling elite accorded kid glove treatment to the traitors, conspirators, murderers and Pak agents. The Home and Law Departments hardly acted against them. Three, the rulers in Kashmir would openly ask their cadres to go to Pakistan to get arms training against India; they would misuse the floor of the assembly to tell their constituencies that "J&K has only acceded to India, and not merged with India"; they would invariably visit the houses of the slain terrorists to express their solidarity with their cause and their families; and they virtually converted the assembly into a den of anti-India intrigues. Instead of producing a moral effect, the ruling elite would accord a VVIP treatment to terrorists, separatists and murderers in Kashmir jails, especially Central Jail Srinagar. The ruling elite would invoke TADA, PSA and similar other laws on occasions but only to divert the attention from the real issue and hoodwink the nation and the authorities in

New Delhi. Such had been the attitude of the Kashmiri ruling elite. Four, no action was taken against top-ranking bureaucrats, including Naeem Akhtar, MA Khan, Ashok Jaitley, ML Koul, Sushma Chowdhary, Abdul Rashid Mubarak, Abdul Hamid Mattoo and Abdul Salam Bhat, who in early 1990 petitioned the United Nations against what they called violation of human rights in Kashmir. The then J&K Governor G.C Saxena did suspend Akhtar, Khan, Bhat, Mubarak and Mattoo but restated them 80 days later. Sadly, some of the petitioners rose to the position of Chief Secretary (Ashok Jaitley) and Cabinet Minister (Naeem Akhtar) and, five, New Delhi consistently refused to recognise the gravity of the situation in Kashmir and put all eggs in the baskets of the Kashmiri ruling elite which was dangerous than the known terrorists, subversives and Pakistani moles as it had been subverting the polity from within in a most brazen manner and not allowing the institutions to act against the forces inimical to India and the minorities, including the miniscule minority of Hindus and Sikhs in Kashmir.

Things did remain under control between August 4, 2019 and August 13, 2020, when almost all those responsible for the rise of sepa-

ratism and terrorism were either behind the bars or under house arrest. It was hoped that things would further improve. But, sadly, it was not to be. The authorities dumbfounded the nation in August 2020 by setting free almost all those who constituted Kashmir's ruling elite and the results are as they are. The Abdullas, the Muftis, the Lones, the Sozs, the Mirs, the Bukharis and the ilk are again indulging in activities they used to indulge in before August 4, 2019. No wonder then that the situation is worsening in Kashmir with each passing moment and that the concerned Indians have started questioning the New Delhi's policy towards the cult of terror in Kashmir and the so-called mainstream Kashmiri leaders. Their concerns just can't be dismissed as preposterous and silly.

Now that the things in Kashmir and parts of Jammu province have virtually gone out of hand, it's time to review the whole anti-terror and anti-separatist policy. To mark time would be only to further damage the nation's cause in J&K and help the enemies both within and outside. The nation just can't afford the rise of such a situation.

What, then, could be the way out? The way out is: pursue the model of late Siddhartha Shankar Ray and

KPS Gill to eradicate the menace of terrorism. Ray as Bengal CM crushed the Naxal terrorism and it's considered his splendid achievement. It bears recalling the dreaded Naxalites had held the entire state of WB and its people to "ransom". In the 70s, the Bengal Government had to order "police action when they were easily succumbing to the Naxalites; arms were being looted but they were hardly countering (the offensive); the Naxalites were even killing traffic policemen; not only were traffic policemen given arms, they were ordered to chain the guns to their bodies to prevent looting; there was complete anarchy". It was under these circumstances that "the Ray dispensation had to give a slogan 'Live and Let Live' (Banchoon Ebang Bancheite Din) in Bengali". The Bengal police had been told three things to eliminate Naxal terror: "follow the Constitution to act, don't see any political colour while you act and, finally, do not succumb meekly while you have a gun in your hand because you may be killed otherwise". The policy produced the desired results.

Similarly, in Punjab, the top cop, KPS Gill, eradicated the Khalistani terror with a heavy hand. His spectacular success was the "Operation Black Thunder", which freed Golden Temple from the ter-

rorists. Not just that, he saw to it that the Gurudwaras were not used or misused by terrorists. The fact of the matter is that he was "not concerned with winning hearts and minds, which was and still the classical method of ending terrorism, as opposed to the ideological form".

According to Punjab-watchers, "there should be no doubt that while Gill did not finish off Punjab terrorism single-handedly, the winning strategy was his. And it came from his mind, rather than the force he commanded. Because he was able to take the demoralised Punjab Police force, gave it that crucial aggression and direction and eventually took care of the Kharkus, as Sikh militants of the time were called. He had never formally studied counter-insurgency, but

was a well-read and educated person with an enormous sense of certitude, and he successfully transmitted this to his force making him the great leader that he was...Faced with the 1992 elections, he decided, more or less by himself, that we'd get a platoon of police to secure each and every candidate. It was a preposterous idea - but that preposterous idea was implemented, and the end result was we didn't lose a single candidate".

It is hoped that the powers-that-be in South and North Blocks would call the problem in Kashmir by name, appreciate the methodology Ray and Gill used to eradicate Naxal and Khalistani terror and direct the J&K administration to pursue the Ray and Gill model to eradicate the cult of terror in J&K.

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