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No one indulging...

J&K to become Aatma-Nirbhar, we must work for a shared ambition to create a future in which everyone live these values for a better life and developmental efforts yield desired results.

The Lt Governor commended Anti Corruption Bureau for working tirelessly to prevent and investigate corruption-related matters and bringing culprits to Justice. He asked the Anti Corruption Bureau to work with redoubled determination to further strengthen the people's trust.

Offenders in the system are being identified and this year, action has been taken against 445 accused, he added.

Vigilance department in J&K administration is the need of the hour. We have to set big goals and make collective efforts to speed up our socio-economic development and achieve the targets within the timeline. The policies and decision-making must reflect the people's participation, their needs and aspirations, said the Lt Governor.

No one should be declared Black sheep on the basis of prejudice and no one should protect or defend those indulging in corrupt practices, howsoever highly placed the offender may be. The whole administrative setup should adopt a common approach to make the working of administration more effective, the Lt Governor told officers.

Highlighting the significance of effective use of Information Technology and dissemination of the right information to all stakeholders, the Lt Governor urged the Anti Corruption Bureau and Administrative Departments to work in collaboration and make the best use of digital platforms, big data technology and other latest interventions in curbing corrupt practices.

Terming awareness and public participation necessary for a more effective fight against the menace of corruption, the Lt Governor called upon all the stakeholders to play their important role in the number of programmes being organized by the General Administration Department, Educational Institutions and Anti Corruption Bureau to create greater awareness about corruption.

I urge the people to use ACB's helpline number to inform the Bureau about any official asking for bribe. I have the same expectation from all the officials that they will work with absolute honesty and not allow corruption to flourish in any manner, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor asked the officers to publicize the Anti-Corruption Bureau's helpline and related activities during the Back to Village programme. Information about the BEAMS Empowerment Portal and other endeavours of the government to curb corruption and bring transparency in the system must reach the common man, he asserted.

The Lt Governor further called for making dedicated efforts to spread social values, ethical conduct and commitment towards social welfare among the new generation in the awareness week.

Integrity pledge was also administered in Raj Bhawan, Government offices and institutions across the UT. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Anand Jain, Director Anti Corruption Bureau J&K; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, HoDs, senior officers and officials attended the inaugural function, in person and through virtual mode.

Three SHOs among...

Unit Kathua; Inspector Sohrit Kumar Trikha, from ADU Kathua to DPL Kathua; Inspector Sunil Kalsi from DPL Kathua to Police Station Malhar as SHO; Inspector Tariq Ahmed from Police Station Malhar to DPL Kathua; Inspector Balram Sharma from Police Post (PP) Nagri as Pairvi Officer Session Court/Addl. Session Court/ CJM Courts Kathua; SI Sanjeet Singh from PP Basantpur to PP Ramkot as Incharge; PSI Ravinder Singh from PP Ramkot to PP Nagri as Incharge; PSI Vikram Singh Manhas from P/S Hiranagar to PP Basantpur as Incharge; PSI Anu Randhia from Police Station Women Kathua to Police Station Kathua; and PSI Kiran Devi from Police Station Women Kathua to Police Station Kathua as SHO.

Manoj Pandit posted...

Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has been transferred and posted as Incharge Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly in his own pay and grade.

"He shall exercise the powers delegated vide Government Order No. 04-JK(LD) of 2019 dated November 16, 2019. The posting of the officer shall not have any preferential claim over the seniority of any other person of the cadre," it added.

District Srinagar selected...

said it will also provide a comprehensive understanding of learning outcomes for all stakeholders in education-schools, parents and students, besides empowering students with cutting-edge edu-technology to help them realise their full potential.

The DC also said that the effort is factored by use of digital technology pursuing next generation reforms and innovations by adopting emerging technologies and use of ICT Management.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in his Tweet has congratulated the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad and his team for getting selected for the project "Gaash" for National e-Governance GOLD AWARD under the category "Excellence in District Level Initiative in e-Governance.

In his Tweet, the Lieutenant Governor has quoted" A well-deserved Golt for Team @srinagaradmin in e-Governance." The tweet further added," Congratulations and best wishes for outstanding work @asadamaijaz and officials for translating the grand vision of digitally empowered society into reality."

Order putting sedition...

the attorney general said the Centre was looking into the issues and something might happen in the next Parliament session.

In response to a query on whether the Centre has issued any communication to the states on the penal provision, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the directions in consonance with the apex court's order have been sent to the chief secretaries of the states.

In the landmark order passed on May 11, the court had put the contentious law on hold till the Centre completed its promised review of the colonial relic and also asked the Union and state governments not to register any fresh case invoking the offence.

It had also directed that the ongoing probes, pending trials and all proceedings under the sedition law will be kept in abeyance across the country and those in jail on sedition charges could approach the court for bail.

"This court is cognizant of the security interests and the integrity of the State on one hand, and the civil liberties of citizens on the other. There is a requirement to balance both sets of considerations, which is a difficult exercise," the court had said.

The offence of sedition, which was included in section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1890, has been under intense public scrutiny for its use as a tool against expressions of dissent, including on social media.

The British government, during its colonial rule, used the sedition law primarily to suppress dissent and imprison freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

"We expect that till the re-examination of the provision is complete, it will be appropriate not to continue the usage of the aforesaid provision of law by the governments," the top court had said.

Any affected party is at liberty to approach the courts concerned, which are requested to examine the reliefs sought, taking into consideration the present order; it had said.

The Editors Guild of India, Major General (Retd) S G Vombatkere, former Union minister Arun Shourie and People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) have filed the petitions on the issue. The petitions have contended that the law causes a "chilling effect" on free speech and is an unreasonable restriction on free expression, a fundamental right.

Between 2015 and 2020, 356 cases of sedition -- as defined under section 124A of the IPC -- were registered and 548 people arrested, according to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). However, only 12 people arrested in seven sedition cases were convicted in the six-year period.

J&K first UT...

rejected besides other details. In coming days and weeks, all the remaining G2C services would be digitally enabled and brought on-board this single platform, as was informed during this ceremony.

It is worth mentioning that few months ago, the Government of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir had put in place a single Integrated Services Delivery Portal called e-UNNAT (https://unnat.ik.gov.in) for dissemination of all the available online services. This has finally met the long felt need to have a Single Portal listing all the Government to Citizen services which were hitherto available across different platforms/ domains thus facilitating ease of accessibility of services at one place to the citizens. The software application has been designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with the IT Department of government of J&K.

13 KP families...

save our lives. We, the residents of Choudharygund, bore the brunt of militancy and shared agonies with our brethren for the last 32 years but killing of Bhat compelled us to leave the valley," they said.

They said prior to Bhat's killing, a government primary school was attacked but fortunately three teachers belonging to the minority community had a narrow escape.

On the same day, a letter was circulated on social media by jihadi groups which threatened Kashmiri Pandits to leave Kashmir or face similar consequences, the families said on the application.

"We are not prepared to live there in danger and shifted to Jammu with our families. Our parents, wives and young kids are in trauma after this horrible incident of killing.

"We made a lot of sacrifices in order to be able to stand there holding the tricolour. Considering the aforementioned details, we hope that your office would register us as migrants just like any other migrant," the application said.

On Thursday, authorities in Shopian had attempted to put on a brave face by claiming that no exodus of Kashmiri Pandits had taken place from the district.

The members of the minority community, who have since been camping in Jammu, ruled out having any plan to return to the Valley.

A verified Twitter handle of the Information and Public Relations department of Shopian had claimed that the news about leaving of "Kashmiri non-migrant Hindu population" was "baseless".

However, Ashwani Kumar Bhat, whose brother Puran Krishan Bhat was gunned down, had told reporters in Jammu that he has migrated and will never return to the valley.

SC to hear...

Muslims to offer namaz on the mosque premises, shall remain in operation till the maintainability of the suit is decided by the district judge and thereafter, for eight weeks to allow the aggrieved parties to approach a higher court.

"The interim order of this court dated May 17, 2022, shall continue to remain in operation pending the disposal of the application under Order 7 Rule 11 of the CPC and thereafter, for a period of eight weeks to enable the parties, which are aggrieved by the order of the district judge, to pursue rights and remedies in accordance with law," the apex court had said.

It had also directed the district magistrate to make adequate arrangements for "vazu" (ablution) for those coming to the mosque to offer namaz, in consultation with the parties involved in the dispute.

On May 17, the top court had directed the Varanasi district magistrate to ensure protection of the area inside the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex, where the "Shivling" is said to be found, and allowed Muslims to offer namaz.

"Balancing the equity", the top court, while hearing a plea moved by the management committee of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, passed the order and refused to stay the ongoing proceedings before the lower court.

The top court had said it needed to balance the rights of the contesting parties and clarified that the order of the civil judge would not restrict and impede the rights of Muslims to offer namaz and perform religious observances.

The Muslim side to the dispute has been referring to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 and its section 4, which bars the filing of a suit or initiating any other legal proceeding for the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship, as existing on August 15, 1947.

Chenani raided suspected locations and arrested an absconder namely Affi, son of Hussain, resident of Maralian, Miran Sahib, Jammu who was absconding since 2017 in FIR No. 56/2015 registered under section 302 at Police Station Kud. He was arrested by Police party of Police Station Kud from Maralian area of Miran Sahib Jammu. An arrest warrant under section 512 Cr.PC was issued by Court of Addl Sessions Udhampur against accused.

Three drug-peddlers arrested with 69 gm heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its war against drugs abuse, Police on Monday arrested three drug peddlers and recovered 69 grams of heroin like substance from their possession.

As per the details, a party of Police Station Udhampur headed by Insp. Raghubir Singh SHO Udhampur under supervision of Addl. SP Udhampur Anwaar Ul Haq and DySP Hqrs. Udhampur Sahil Mahajan established a surprise Naka near Gole Mela area of Udhampur town. During checking of vehicles and pedestrian, a motorbike without registration number was signaled to stop but rider tried to flee. However police Naka party apprehended him tactfully and on frisking, recovered 50 grams of contraband heroin like substance from two accused riding on bike. The accused, identified as Mohd Qazi, son of Mushtaq Ahmed, resident of Dihari, Ramnagar along with pillion Liaqat Ali, son of Sheru, resident of Harichak, Kathua were arrested and FIR No. 446/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered in Police Station Udhampur and investigation taken up.

Meanwhile, Bakshi Nagar Police also arrested a drug peddler and recovered 19 gm heroin from his possession. The accused was identified as Jelani Bhat, resident of Pahalgam.

Three found hanging under mysterious circumstances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three persons were found hanging on Monday.

As per details, Munna, son of Boj Beta, resident of Odessa presently staying at Jammu University's hostel was found hanging with a tree by others students who informed police. On receiving information, police reached the spot and shifted body to morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, Amrersh Singh, son of Kaka Ram, resident of Gernal Panchal area of Ramban was found hanging in house. While in another instance, Sapna Devi, daughter of Hari Om Singh Barthayl Panchal area was also found hanging in her house.

Morbi bridge collapse...

located around 300 km from the state capital Gandhinagar, had reopened five days ago after extensive repairs and renovation. It was crammed with people when it collapsed around 6.30 pm on Sunday.

"The death toll in the bridge collapse incident has gone up to 134," Rajkot Range Inspector General Ashok Yadav told PTI.

The state information department said five teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), six platoons of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), a team of the Air Force, two columns of the Army, and two teams of the Indian Navy apart from local rescue teams were involved in the operation.

"The rescue operation was still on," Yadav said.

Sanghavi told reporters the state government has formed a committee to conduct a probe into the bridge collapse.

Four persons were arrested on Monday in connection with a case related to the collapse of the bridge, police said.

"We have arrested four persons so far and further investigation is going on," Yadav said.

He refused to elaborate, saying the police will soon brief the media.

Police have registered an FIR (first information report) on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and attempt to commit culpable homicide against agencies given the task of maintenance and operation of the bridge.

In the FIR lodged at the Morbi 'B' division police station on Sunday night, police have shown "agencies responsible for maintenance and management of the hanging bridge" as the main accused.

The FIR, lodged by 'B' division police inspector Prakash Dekivadia, stated that the bridge over the Machehlhu river was not in use for nearly eight months as the local administration had roped in a "private agency" for its maintenance.

After completion of the maintenance, the agency opened the bridge for the public on October 26, the FIR said.

As per the FIR, the incident took place because of the "callous approach" of the agency people.

The FIR further stated that persons concerned or agencies did not pay attention to the quality of maintenance as well as repair work of the bridge.

The bridge was opened for tourists by the agency despite knowing that their "callous approach" in the maintenance and management of the bridge may lead to human deaths, the FIR stated.

"We have lodged an FIR and trying to establish contact with the Oreva company's staff who were on duty at the bridge yesterday," SP Rahul Tripathi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a tour of poll-bound Gujarat, remembered those who died in the tragedy.

He paid tributes to India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Narmada district.

I am in Kevadia, but my heart goes out to those who died in the Morbi Bridge collapse tragedy, the PM said as he got emotional.

Troupes from across country had come to Kevadia to perform traditional dances, but the programme was cancelled due to the present circumstances, he said.

Eyewitnesses said there were several women and children on the British-era hanging bridge when it snapped, plunging them into the water below.

Apart from locals, people from nearby cities and villages had also come to the bridge on a holiday when it collapsed.

Due to the Diwali vacation and being a Sunday, there was a rush of tourists on the bridge, a major tourist attraction.

Before the tragedy occurred, some people were seen jumping on the bridge and pulling its big wires, an eyewitness said, adding that the bridge may have collapsed due to the huge crowd on it.

People fell over each other when the bridge collapsed, he said. Several of the victims were seen hanging by the edge of the bridge to prevent themselves from slipping into the river.

After the collapse, all that remained of the bridge was part of the metal carriage-way hanging down from one end into the river water; its thick cables snapped in places.

At the local hospital, people formed a human chain to hold back crowds and keep the road clear for ambulances which brought those rescued.

A private operator had carried out the repair work of the bridge for nearly seven months before it was reopened for the public on the Gujarat New Year day on October 26.

The bridge was reopened after a private inaugural event and was yet to receive the municipality's "fitness certificate," a civic official said.

Following the accident, Modi cancelled his road show scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad on Monday ahead of the state Assembly polls, BJP sources said.

A "page committee sammelan", scheduled to be held on Tuesday in Modi's virtual presence, has been put off, the sources added. The Congress said its 'Parivartan Sankalp Yatra', which was to be taken out from five zones across the state on Monday, was postponed by a day following the tragedy.

Jammu athlete participates in 'Correndo De Rosa'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Son of the soil, Arya Vir Singh, a member of Roller Athlete Skating Club, Jindrah brought laurels to the country and the Union territory of J&K by participating in the 'Correndo De Rosa', a 5-Km run held in Salvador, Brazil. The run was dedicated to the prevention of breast cancer. Thousands of men, women and children participated in this national campaign as October month is declared as Pink month and represents measures for prevention of breast cancer. After successful completion of run, Arya Vir was awarded a completion medal. All the members of Roller Athlete Skating Club, Jindrah have congratulated Arya Vir for achieving another milestone in his athletic career and wished him good luck for future endeavours.



Woman found dead in drain, family alleges murder by in-laws

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Body of a woman was found dead under suspicious circumstances from a drain in Brow area of Tehsil Kalakot of district Rajouri. Family members have alleged in-laws of killing her and thereafter throwing her in drain.

According to police, body of Usha Devi (23), wife Kuldeep Singh, resident of Brow was found by people under suspicious circumstances from a drain and informed police. The police reached the spot and took body in possession and sent it to the government hospital Kalakot for post-mortem. On the other hand, the family members of deceased Usha Devi accused her in-laws of torturing and harassing her and alleged that they used to beat her earlier also.

The family members said that it was her in-laws who killed her and threw the body in drain. They appealed to the SSP for justice and said that a fair and thorough investigation should be done in the matter, so that killers of their daughter are put behind the bars. It is being told that deceased was married two and a half years ago. He also has a one year old child. On the other hand, police has started investigation after registering a case under section 174.

Man found dead under mysterious circumstances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A person was found dead in suspicious conditions at Narwal area on Monday.

According to information, body of Brahmjit Singh, son Mukhtyar Singh, resident of Haryana was recovered from a truck in Mandi. On reaching information, Police rushed to the spot and shifted body to hospital. A case has been registered in this regard.

Shopkeeper arrested for selling reindeer's horns

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Forest Department team on Monday arrested a shopkeeper with horns of reindeer.

According to information, a team of forest department raided a shop at Raghunath market and recovered reindeer horns from the shop, which were on sale. The shopkeeper was arrested.

Jawan dies of bullet injuries

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARI BRAHMANA: An Army Jawan died due to bullet injuries in Bari Brahmana area. The police has shifted his body to GMC.

According to information, Jagdev Singh, resident of Bisrah, who was posted in Birpur area these days was brought to hospital for treatment by his companions after he receive bullet injuries, but he died during treatment. After the death, police reached the spot and took possession of body. A case has been registered in this regard and investigation started.



Theft case solved; 2 arrested, stolen items recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Monday solved a theft by arresting two accused and recovered stolen items.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Channi Himmat by one Rohit Sharma, son of Sat Pal, resident of Delli, stating that on October 28, 2022 some unknown thieves stole iron gate of house and gates of other two persons of same locality. On receipt of complaint, FIR No 152/2022 under section 380 of IPC was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station Channi Himmat under supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Channi Himmat Insprr Rajesh Khajuria assisted by PSI Paramjeet Singh, after putting in strenuous efforts and with the help of CCTV footages of area finally rounded up two suspects namely Ankush Sharma, son of Rashpal Sharma, resident of Delli and Rakesh Sharma alias Rinku, son of Late Pritam Lal, resident of Dori Tehsil Akhnoor. On intensive questioning, accused confessed their involvement in crime and on their disclosure stolen items were recovered from a serap shop located at Khara.

Illicit timber seized, accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Police on Monday seized illicit timber and arrested accused person involved in commission of crime.

As per details, Police Station Magam received information that one Hilal Ahmad Shah, son of Ab Rashid Shah, resident of Nagbal Khag has loaded illegally acquired timber in form of logs in his vehicle (Maruti Wagon R) bearing registration number DL9CN-8043 and is trying to transport it to other location. Accordingly, the vehicle laden with illegally acquired timber (2 logs measuring 9 Sq ft Deodar) was seized at Kandhamna Magam and accused was arrested on the spot and shifted to Police Station, where he remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR No. 168/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Magam and investigation initiated.

Absconder arrested after 5 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police on Monday apprehended an absconder who was evading arrest since 2017.

As per details, a team headed by Insp. Vijay Singh SHO Police Station Kud under supervision of Addl. SP Udhampur Anwaar Ul Haq and Ahmed Shaafi SDPO

