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Committed to bring...

IT sector. "e-Governance means inclusiveness, people first, strengthening trust with citizens, establishing real-time grievance redressal mechanism, bridging the digital divide, enhancing ease of doing business & ease of living and enabling the citizens to transparently provide feedback on their experience of public services. I am confident the two-day National e-Governance conference shall go a long way in deliberating new e-participation tools and better collaboration with people for efficient service delivery," the Lt Governor observed.

The National e-Governance Conference is a momentous occasion for Jammu and Kashmir and furthers the vision of Digital India of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In a short span of two years, we have taken a giant leap to create user-centric service delivery system and paperless administrative functions through e-Office. Technology has redesigned the rules and procedures bringing accountability and transparency in the system and enabling us to provide services more effectively and efficiently," the Lt Governor said.

In the last two years, several e-governance initiatives have been launched to reach out to citizens and bring greater efficiency and transparency in the functioning of the J&K government. The Government has recently launched the 'Digital Jammu and Kashmir' programme to provide all government services in digital mode through an integrated services delivery portal. The vision is to make governance more effective, efficient and citizen-centric by harnessing the power of IT for inclusive development. The NeSDA (National e-Governance Delivery Assessment Report) of IARPG, GoI for the year 2021 has ranked Jammu and Kashmir first amongst UTs in e-governance. Jammu and Kashmir has been ranked first amongst UTs both in State portal and in the online services with highest compliance on NeSDA parameters.

The implementation of e-office in all government offices has brought about greater efficiency in the overall working of the government in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. J&K ranks first amongst UTs in the uptake of e-office with around 330 offices on e-office and a file disposal rate of 96%. As on date, more than 300 offices have been made fully operational on e-office. The practice of 'Darbar Move' included movement of hundreds of trucks to transport the official documents and infrastructure over a distance of over 300 kms between Jammu and Srinagar and vice versa. The 149-year-old practice entailed an annual cost of around Rs 400 crores. Rapid Assessment System of UT of Jammu and Kashmir ranks first amongst UTs in the RAS integration of services with 227 services integrated with RAS. The first digital online library of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been launched. J&K Employees Performance Monitoring Portal, first of its kind introduced anywhere in India by a State or UT Government, captures the monthly work performance of the employees and officers of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the appraisal thereof by their respective Reporting / Controlling Officers. The UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been on-boarded on the Gati-Shakti platform of DoT, integration with which marks online processing of Right of Way applications. Recently Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir has facilitated ease of accessibility of services at a single place and accordingly a portal "eUnnat" -Unified integrated Accessible, Transparent, which is dynamic in nature.

The Conference will be inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, The Vaedictory Session, to be presided over by the Lt Governor on 27th November, will witness launch of J&K Vision Document and launch of J&K Cyber Security policy.

AC approves free...

date out of which 1564 animals have died. The affected farmers are in distress due to medical expenses which ranges from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 10,000 and accordingly, to provide relief to the farmers, provision of free of cost veterinary medicines to LSD affected farmers has been made to ease the financial burden of the farmers for treating the disease.

BJP committed to...

need for open and healthy debate on the issue," he said. The Home Ministry said in three BJP ruled states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Gujarat, a panel under the chairmanship of retired Supreme Court and High Court chief justices has been formed, where people of different faiths are putting forth their views.

"We will take action on the basis of recommendations coming after this exercise. The BJP is committed to bring UCC once all democratic discussions are over," he said.

When asked if the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir was his biggest success story, the Home Minister said no success is his individual success as he was a minister in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Cabinet and every success is that of the government.

"It was propagated for years that Jammu and Kashmir was a part of India because of Article 370. Now there is neither Article 370 nor 35A, yet Jammu and Kashmir is with India," Shah said.

A new democratic generation is coming up in Jammu and Kashmir where over 30,000 panches and sarpanches are percolating the democracy to grassroots, he said.

The Home Minister also said Rs 56,000 crore of investment had flown and 80 lakh tourists, highest since independence, visited Jammu and Kashmir since 2019.

Lowest incidents of terrorism since it began in 1990s and zero stone pelting have been reported, which is one of the biggest achievements of this government and there are no two views about it, he said.

"The roots of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir have grown deep, but the government is committed to eradicate it completely," he added.

Earlier, in his inaugural speech during the summit, the Home Minister said it was time that India's democratic values were let known to the world.

He said the country was moving at a fast pace towards achieving the target of USD 5 trillion economy by 2025. "In 2014, the country had four unicorn start-ups and the number has now spiralled to over 100," Shah highlighted.

When asked about allegations of agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate being misused ahead of elections, the Home Minister said anyone having grievances can move courts and such actions should not be seen through a political prism.

On the question of purported video of jailed AAP minister Satyendar Jain in which he is seen receiving special treatment, Shah said it should be a question for the Arvind Kejriwal-led party to check whether if the video was genuine or not.

"If the video is genuine, the accountability lies on his party and you are asking questions from me. I had also gone to jail and resigned as minister. Such shamelessness to cling to the post of a minister even after lodged in jail is unprecedented", he said.

When asked about provisions allowing the Centre to remove a minister in such a scenario, he said even the Constitution makers had perhaps not seen such things coming, and hence, there was no such provision.

On the Shradha Walkar case, the minister said Delhi Police and prosecution will ensure whosoever killed the 27-year-old woman will get the strictest punishment in minimal possible time.

When asked about the upcoming assembly elections in Gujarat, Shah the said contest is between the BJP and the Congress.

"We will beat all records in terms of seat and vote percentage in Gujarat," he said.

Arrested Tehsildar Bahu...

Rohit Sharma, the ACB team not only raided his office but also his house and collected evidences from there.

According to the information received from ACB, a person living in R S Pura had bought land in City South. When he went to Tehsildar Bahu to transfer this land in his name, Tehsildar Rohit Sharma asked him for Rs one lakh. A deal was settled at Rs 50 thousand. The complainant, meanwhile, approached the ACB and lodged a complaint against Rohit for demanding bribe.

Here it relevant to mention that Pacca Danga Police Station is alleged of extend-

ing VIP treatment to Tehsildar Bahu Rohit Sharma, after getting caught red-handed while accepting bribe.

As per sources, Rohit Sharma enjoyed coziness in a special room with comfortable beds, chairs and room heaters at Police Station Pacca Danga instead of lodged in the lockup.

He was reportedly using electronic gadgets, like smart-phones and laptops, apart from getting food from their homes and restaurants, as per his wish list.

Malik appears in...

terror financing case, was not produced in the court physically due to a Ministry of Home Affairs order restricting his movement.

Senior Public Prosecutor S K Bhat told reporters, "Today, accused Yasin Malik participated in the trial through videoconferencing...and did not oppose cross-examining the witness."

"I made a submission before the court as a CBI representative that production warrant should not be issued as he participated in the trial. Court accepted that and no production warrant was issued," he said.

The court asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to produce the rest of the witnesses on the next date of hearing on December 23.

Rubaiya did not appear for the hearing, as her exemption application had earlier been approved by the court.

Bhat said two witnesses were scheduled to record their statements in the court. While one of them, a retired doctor, was present in the court, the other was in Saudi Arabia and could not join the trial, he said.

Another witness' exemption application was approved by the court as he was reported to be undergoing dialysis, he said.

The retired doctor's statement was recorded in the court in the presence of Yasin Malik, he said.

Bhat said that Malik seeking his physical appearance in the court was a ploy to delay the trial. "Due to security reasons, it is not feasible to produce him here," he said.

During the last hearing on July 15, Rubaiya had identified five accused, including Malik. Rubaiya was abducted from near Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989. She was freed five days later after the then VP Singh government, supported by the BJP, released five terrorists in exchange.

Now living in Tamil Nadu, Rubaiya is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990.

Malik, 56, is lodged in Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in May. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 terror financing case registered by the NIA.

Malik had observed a 10-day hunger strike from July 22 after the Centre did not respond to his plea to physically appear in the Jammu court hearing in the abduction case.

Police recover IEDs...

somewhere between Ramgarh and Vijaypur, about five-six kilometres away from the International Border, at around 6.15 am and they informed the police.

He said the bomb disposal squad recovered two unassembled IEDs with detonators, two Chinese pistols, 4 magazines with 60 rounds and Rs 5 lakh in Rs 500 denomination. The consignment was covered in a wooden box with a steel base, the SSP said. "It is case of cross-border drone-dropping."

We are investigating it," he said. "The consignment could have been used for any untoward incident, but the attempt has been foiled." The SSP said the police team and the local people will be rewarded.

Threat to journalists...

police tweeted. It said the ongoing searches were undertaken following leads received during similar searches a few days ago in the same case.

'KashmirFight', an online page used by terror outfits, had released a hitlist of journalists, accusing them of working at the behest of security and intelligence agencies. At least five local journalists have since resigned from their jobs.

Tunnels across major passes in Ladakh in offing; to cost Rs 5,000 cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Secretary, Ladakh Public Works Department (PWD) Ajeet Kumar Sahu told PTI. He said that the consultants have been hired to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) of tunnels across Khardung La, Fotu La, Namika La, and Key-La passes.

An all-weather tunnel enhances connectivity between valleys for facilitating the movement of the military, civilians, and tourists in the region, he said.

The tunnel on Key-La pass will be alternative path to dangerous Changla pass, which will make travel to world famous Pangong lake easy and shorten it by one-and-half-hours, the Commissioner-Secretary said.

The survey and feasibility study is being conducted by Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), which has been assigned to prepare DPRs

of the tunnels, he said. "The construction of these tunnels will lead to faster, safer, and smoother movement of internal traffic resulting in the all-around economic development of Ladakh", Sahu said.

The proposed 5.5 kilometre long Khardung-La tunnel, will also help increase the safety of travellers due to bypassing of areas prone to landslide and avalanche, Sahu said.

Besides, it would also protect the Khardung glacier, which is a major source of water for Leh town, from receding due to the increase in heat emitted by automotive vehicular movement, the official said.

The consultant agency for the project shared that the proposed bypass tunnels at the Fotu La and Namika La passes will reduce the travel distance from Kargil to Leh by around an hour besides providing safety in traffic movement due to the accumulation of snow and icing

on road during winters, he said. "The expected increase of traffic in winter after the opening of the Zojila tunnel also necessitates the construction of these tunnels as it serves as a strategic route for logistic supply to Ladakh. These tunnels are expected to boost local business activities, employment opportunities, and tourism in the region", Sahu said.

As per the RITES, preliminary survey and testing on all locations have been done and certain options have been worked out on the tunnel alignments, he said. "Those are being examined technically as well as through a cost-benefit analysis. Some pending testing would be done in the next working season to clearly assess the geological formation of these passes," the Commissioner said. Sahu has asked the RITES to send the initial report before December 31 so that required approvals are obtained in advance.

advised to immediately report about such persons to the Board. The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will appreciate if specific information about such unscrupulous elements along with evidence is furnished to the Board, enabling it to take appropriate legal action. The identity of such candidates who will report about the unscrupulous elements shall be kept confidential. Moreover, candidates scheduled to appear in aforesaid examination have also been warned to desist from

indulging in any unfair means practice like impersonation, carrying of prohibited items, communication device, electronic equipments/gadgets or any other material with the intention of receiving assistance. The candidates found to be attempting/using any unfair means practice during the examination, shall be dealt with strictly as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2013 including debarring of such candidates for appearing in future examinations.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD/PALANPUR/MODASA/DEHGAM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday it was time to generate income from electricity instead of getting it for free, an apparent reference to promise of free power made by some parties in Gujarat, and asserted the next month's Assembly election is about deciding the state's destiny for the next 25 years.

Stepping up his campaigning for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with just a week left for the first phase of polling, Modi addressed four rallies for the second consecutive day in different parts of the state in support of ruling party candidates. Addressing an election rally in Modasa town of Aravalli district in north Gujarat, the PM said only he knows the art through which people can earn money from electricity. Both Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress, political rivals of the BJP, have promised free electricity (up to 300 units per month) to people if voted to power in Gujarat.

Seeking to counter their free power promise, Modi said he wants to see people across Gujarat earning money from excess electricity generated from solar rooftop systems instead of just getting it for free. "You must have seen how the entire Modhera village (in Mehsana district) is now running on rooftop solar power. They are using electricity as per their need and sell excess power (to the government). I want to replicate this system across Gujarat," he said. "Under this system, you can earn money by selling excess electricity generated

from solar panels. Only Modi knows this art where in people will be able to earn from electricity," said the PM. He told the audience a woman from Modhera is now planning to buy a refrigerator and an air-conditioner as electricity has become affordable after the installation of rooftop solar power.

"She told me that though her family was able to afford the appliances earlier, they refrained from using them because they could not bear the running cost. Now, they can afford it because electricity is free. I am working to bring this revolution at the doorstep of each and every household in Gujarat," the PM said. The PM said now farmers are themselves generating electricity through solar panels installed on unused corners of their farms. "They can also sell excess electricity and earn money. The era of demanding affordable electricity has gone. Today, you can generate income by selling electricity," said Modi, who served as Gujarat CM from 2001 to 2014.

On the occasion, Modi also slammed the Congress, saying the opposition party only believes in the formula of "divide and rule" and it only focusses on how to get power. "Rajasthan is near your border; have you seen any development in that state? Have you seen any good news coming out of that state? The Congress cannot do development," he said. At another election meeting in Palanpur town of Banaskantha district, Modi said the upcoming polls will decide the state's destiny for the next 25 years. The PM said though

many development works have been carried out by the BJP in Gujarat and the Centre, time has come to take a "giant leap". "This election is not about who will become an MLA or whose government will be formed. This election is all about deciding Gujarat's destiny for the next 25 years," Modi said.

The PM said he was making efforts to put Gujarat, being ruled by the BJP for the last 27 years, in the league of developed nations. "Time has come to take a giant leap now. And, I need your support to form a strong government in Gujarat. You don't have to tell me your issues because I grew up here and I very well understand those issues. I appeal to you to make the BJP victorious in all the seats of Banaskantha," said Modi. Voting in Banaskantha district will be held in the second phase on December 5.

At the third rally of the day at Dehgam town of Gandhinagar district, the Prime Minister said the BJP government in Gujarat has transformed the education sector and made it more scientific and modern, touching upon an election issue which is being aggressively pushed by the AAP. The PM pointed out that Gujarat's education budget has now gone up to Rs 33,000 crore, more than the total budget outlay of several states.

Notably, the comments of the BJP's star campaigner on Gujarat's education scenario came at a time when the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP has been aggressively pitching the 'Delhi model' of education and has promised to revamp government

run schools if voted to power in the state. "Nearly 20 to 25 years back, Gujarat's budget allocation for education was just Rs 1,600 crore. Today, it stands at Rs 33,000 crore, more than the total budget outlay of many states. This is the progress we have made," said Modi.

"The changes we brought in this sector have benefited the people of the entire Gujarat. The BJP government in Gujarat has transformed the education sector in the state and made it more scientific and modern," he said. The PM told the gathering that Gandhinagar has now become an education hub housing numerous colleges and universities.

Taking on the Congress, the PM said leaders of the opposition party do not have any vision for developing Gujarat as they are busy criticising him all the time. At the fourth campaign rally of the day at Bavla village in Ahmedabad district, the Prime Minister alleged villages in Gujarat remained neglected as the previous Congress governments did not follow Mahatma Gandhi's values.

"Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the soul of India resides in its villages. But Congress leaders never cared to follow Gandhian values. They actually crushed that soul. Villages remained neglected and their true potential was never realised," he noted.

Voting to elect a new 182-member Gujarat Assembly will be held in two phases - December 1 (89 seats) and 5 (93 seats) -- and ballots will be counted on December 8. A total of 1,621 candidates are in the fray for the 182 Assembly seats.

JKSSB to conduct computer based written tests from Nov 29

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) is conducting Computer Based written test for various posts with effect from 29th November, 2022 at various examination centers in J&K.

The aforesaid examination has been scheduled to be conducted in multiple batches and adequate security arrangements have been put in place at each examination center. The concerned District Magistrate will issue prohibitory order

under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) around the examination centers during the timing of examination. A multi layered structure for supervision has also been established by the concerned District Civil and Police administration. The aspiring candidates have been cautioned against the activities of vested interests and are advised not to fall prey to the designs of touts and unscrupulous elements. The candidates who are being approached by such touts/ unscrupulous elements in any matter pertaining to recruitment by JKSSB are

advised to immediately report about such persons to the Board. The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will appreciate if specific information about such unscrupulous elements along with evidence is furnished to the Board, enabling it to take appropriate legal action. The identity of such candidates who will report about the unscrupulous elements shall be kept confidential. Moreover, candidates scheduled to appear in aforesaid examination have also been warned to desist from

indulging in any unfair means practice like impersonation, carrying of prohibited items, communication device, electronic equipments/gadgets or any other material with the intention of receiving assistance. The candidates found to be attempting/using any unfair means practice during the examination, shall be dealt with strictly as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2013 including debarring of such candidates for appearing in future examinations.

Seven judges, who have been sought to be transferred, included Justice V M Velumani, a judge in the Madras high court. He would be joining Calcutta High Court. Justice Battu Devanand has been sent from Andhra Pradesh High Court to Madras High Court. Justice D Ramesh has been transferred from Andhra Pradesh High Court to Allahabad High Court,

while Justice Lalitha Kanneganti has been sent from Telangana High Court to Karnataka High Court. Justice D Nagarjun has been shifted from Telangana High Court to Madras High Court, while Justice T Raja has been sent from Madras High Court to Rajasthan High Court. Justice A Abhishek Reddy has been transferred from Telangana High Court to Patna

High Court. Lawyers at Telangana High Court had also protested the proposed transfer of Justice Reddy and later a delegation of bar leaders had met the CJI. The Collegium, in another meeting held on November 23, 2022, also approved the proposal for elevation of two advocates as judges in the Rajasthan High Court. The advocates whose names have

been approved are -- Anil Kumar Upman and Nupur Bhat. The three-member Collegium, which takes decisions with regard to high court judges, has also approved the proposal for elevation of six Judicial Officers as Judges in the Rajasthan High Court. The judicial officers whose names have been cleared are-- Rajendra Prakash Soni, Ashok Kumar Jain,

Yogendra Kumar Purohit, Bhuwan Goyal, Praveer Bhatnagar, and Ashutosh Kumar. In another decision, the Collegium has also approved the proposal for appointment of two Additional Judges as Permanent Judges in the Chhattisgarh High Court. The names include Justices Narendra Kumar Vyas and Naresh Kumar Chandravanshi.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 25.7°C Min: 9.1°C

Humidity
Max: 87 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 14.7°C Min: -0.8°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 67

Sunset : 17:28 Hours
Sunrise : 07:09 Hours

SC Collegium recommends transfer of 7 HCs Judges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Thursday recommended transfer of seven high court judges to different high courts in the country.

The list of high court judges, who have been recommended for transfer, does not include Justice Nikhil S Kariel of the Gujarat High Court.

Seven judges, who have been sought to be transferred, included Justice V M Velumani, a judge in the Madras high court. He would be joining Calcutta High Court. Justice Battu Devanand has been sent from Andhra Pradesh High Court to Madras High Court. Justice D Ramesh has been transferred from Andhra Pradesh High Court to Allahabad High Court,

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