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38 killed, 20...

incident. "The bus accident in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir is distressing. My condolences to the families who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest," Modi said on X.

He announced that an ex-gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh each would be given to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each would be given to the injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

"Deeply anguished to learn about the loss of precious lives due to a tragic bus accident at Doda, Jammu and Kashmir. The local administration is conducting the rescue operation in the gorge where the bus had the accident. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured," Shah said on X.

"Extremely pained by the loss of lives in a tragic bus accident in Assar, Doda. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families and wishing for a speedy recovery of those injured in the accident. Directed Div Com and Dist Admin to provide all necessary assistance to affected persons," Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on X.

Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh described as absolutely shocking the loss of lives in Doda accident.

Quoting Doda Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, who visited the spot, Jitendra Singh, Union minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office, wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "Saddened to share the update from DC #Doda Harvinder Singh from the spot of the accident. Unfortunately 36 persons have died and 19 injured, out of whom 6 injured are serious".

According to the Union minister, the injured are being shifted to the government medical colleges in Doda and Jammu and all possible help is being provided. "Sincere condolences to the bereaved families," he added.

Due to the fall from a considerable height, the bus was badly damaged, sources said.

Police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel, besides locals, are involved in the rescue operation, they said, adding that some of the injured passengers have been shifted to hospitals.

The injured were first taken to a hospital in Doda and subsequently, four of them were airlifted to the GMC hospital in Jammu.

Top police and civil administration officers are supervising the rescue operation on the spot. The officials said the bus was carrying extra passengers and while negotiating a "U" turn, it overturned and rolled down into the gorge.

The bodies were taken out after cutting some parts of the bus, they added. Some of the bodies were badly mutilated, the officials said.

Locals expressed concern over the poor condition of the road which, they said, not only led to this accident but several such incidents in the past.

"The bus was going from Kishtwar to Jammu. Around 55 people were travelling in the bus and 36 of them were killed on the spot," Mohammad Ashraf, the sarpanch of the area where the accident took place, told reporters on the spot.

Ashraf, who along with other local residents, launched the rescue operation, said at least 10 accidents have taken place in Doda of late, but the administration is yet to act.

"We gave Rs 6 lakh to repair the road. They failed to repair it. They have misappropriated the money. A similar accident took place here only a few months ago and many lives were lost," he added.

This is probably the biggest accident in Doda in the last few years.

On July 1, 2019, 35 people were killed and 17 injured when an overloaded mini-bus veered off the road and fell into a gorge in Kishtwar's Sangwari area.

On September 14, 2018, 17 passengers were killed and 16 injured when a mini-bus skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in the Dandaran area of Kishtwar.

On May 24 this year, seven people were killed and three injured after a cruiser vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a gorge at the Dangduru dam site in the Dachan area of Kishtwar.

Eight people were killed and three seriously injured when their car skidded off the road and plunged into a 300-foot gorge in Kishtwar on August 30.

On June 27, five people were killed and 12 injured when their vehicle fell into a gorge on the Bhardarwah-Pathankot road in Doda.

Three people were killed in road accidents in Doda district on October 8 and October 20.

Since Aug 2019...

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra initiative aimed at reaching out to vulnerable who are eligible under various schemes but have not benefitted.

"This endeavour of the central government with the objective of reaching the unreached, to generate awareness about tribal, rural and urban schemes, to interact with beneficiaries and enrolment of potential beneficiaries will make a significant contribution in socio-economic empowerment of tribal community, poor, deprived and weaker sections of the society," he said.

The Lt Governor called for collective efforts from citizens, stakeholders, community leaders, social organizations and administration to address the focus areas for tribal districts under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra including sickle cell anaemia elimination, enrolment in EKLAVYA, Scholarships, Forest Rights titles, Self Help Groups and Van Dhan Vikas Kendra.

He further directed all District Commissioners and Administrative officials to focus on saturation of Individual Forest Rights.

Beneficiaries from Rajouri and Bandipora shared their experiences with the Lt Governor through video conferencing and expressed gratitude for welfare schemes.

'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge was also administered on the occasion.

In other districts, the outreach activities will start from 3rd week of November. Route plan for IEC Vans has been prepared and control room has also been established at UT and District level for overall coordination.

POJK part of..

the entire gang of Muftis and Abdullahs is nervous but people of the nation demand that they play a constructive role in bringing J&K back to the prosperous days. Chugh said people of J&K are proud of their identity and BJP is committed to protect that. But it is Abdullahs and Muftis, who must stop from spreading misleading narratives, he added.

Govt should probe...

consume precious human lives. He said that after he relinquished the chief ministership no attention has been paid for improvement of infrastructure and roads in Doda district, which is resulting in frequent road accidents.

"The government should probe the reasons behind the frequent road accidents in the Chenab valley," he added.

Azad said that there have been serious complaints that traffic rules are not followed by drivers in the Doda district.

He said that after his government will be formed in J&K, the major emphasis will be given to upgrade and enhance roads of Doda district, especially the Highways, which have witnessed frequent road accidents.

The DPAP Chairman said that special committee should be formed by the government to issue guidelines to transporters how to avoid these accidents in future.

Azad further said that special police squads should be deployed on the major roads and Highways of Doda district with a mandate to keep an eye on violators.

"Over the years, the Doda region has been ignored by the people at the helm of affairs, despite the region being landlocked with limited opportunities for its people," he said.

President Murmu, political...

injured recover at the earliest," Modi said on X.

He announced that an ex gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh each would be given to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed pain and anguish over the loss of lives in the bus accident and urged authorities to speed up the relief and rescue work.

"Pained and anguished to hear about the terrible bus tragedy in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir which has resulted in loss of many precious lives. We urge the authorities to expedite the rescue and relief work," he said in a post on X.

"In this hour of grief, our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. May they get the strength to overcome their losses," he said.

Officials said the bus bearing registration number JK02CN-6555 was reportedly carrying around 40 passengers. They said it skidded off the road near Trungal-Assar on the Batote-Kishtwar national highway and fell 300 feet downhill.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and three former chief ministers of the erstwhile state expressed condolences over the loss of lives.

"Extremely pained by the loss of lives in a tragic bus accident in Assar, Doda. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families & wishing for a speedy recovery of those injured in the accident. Directed Div Com & Dist Admin to provide all necessary assistance to affected persons," Sinha posted on X.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also expressed grief over the loss of lives. "Deeply shocked & saddened about the tragic road accident at Assar in Doda. Deepest condolences to the families of those feared dead & hope the administration expedites rescue operations," she posted on X.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah also expressed sadness over the loss of lives.

"JKNC President Dr Farooq Abdullah and VP @OmarAbdullah are extremely shocked and saddened to hear about the road accident at Assar near Trungal in Doda district in which several are feared dead. They have implored the administration to provide all possible help to the injured. In this moment of immense grief, their thoughts and prayers lie with the families of the deceased," the National Conference posted on X.

Political leaders on Wednesday expressed shock and sadness over a bus accident in Doda that has killed at least 37 people.

Expressing grief over the loss of lives in a road accident, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla said, "Saddened by the road accident near Thatri, Doda. In this hour of grief, I convey my condolences to the bereaved families. I pray that the people who have been injured recover at the earliest."

"The traffic police should act against the overloading and speedy vehicles on the hilly roads that often lead to fatal road accidents and loss of lives," he said.

National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, while expressing shock over the mishap, said, "My heart goes to the families, who lost their dear ones in the shocking accident."

Sadhotra prayed for peace to the departed souls and speedy recovery of all the injured.

Seeking probe into the circumstances leading to this tragic accident, especially in the wake of reports of overlapping in the ill-fated passenger vehicle, Sadhotra said this is all the more necessary as the vehicle might have crossed many spots having police bandhobast.

The accident speaks volumes about the so-called alertness of those manning the traffic management, especially on highways, he said.

Vice chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) GM Saroori, General Secretaries, RS Chib, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Provincial President Ab Majeed Wani, Anita Thakur, Provincial Gen Secretaries- Maheswar Singh, Sobat Ali, Vishal Chopra General Secretary and Print Media Incharge, PR Manhas Zonal President Pir Panchal and Gharu Ram Choudary Zonal President Jammu Zone expressed deep anguish over bus accident.

DPAP activists and leadership demanded high level judicial enquiry into the accident to fix the responsibility for such accidents and recommend remedial measures to prevent further death on roads in hilly areas.

They urged Prime Minister & Home Minister to sanction ex gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh to next kin of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh to injured persons.

DPAP leaders also visited Government Medical College Hospital to look condition of patients.

Former MLC Vikramaditya Singh expressed deep grief over the tragic accident in Doda district

Former MLC conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls. He also urged the government to provide the best medical care to the injured and offer adequate compensation to the families of the victims.

Vikramaditya Singh, who contested the MP election from the Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary Constituency, said that the erstwhile Doda district is known as an area prone to fatal road accidents.

He emphasized the need for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations, ensuring that only roadworthy vehicles and qualified drivers operate commercial vehicles.

He also stressed the importance of curbing vehicle overloading, a significant contributing factor to these accidents.

Ajatsatru Singh, senior BJP leader and former Transport Minister expressed grief over the loss of lives in an accident in Doda.

Ajatsatru Singh prayed for peace to the departed souls and fortitude to the bereaved families. He also prayed for speedy recovery of the injured and impressed upon the divisional administration to ensure the affected families get relief and adequate ex gratia.

Properties of 3...

facie acquired from the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by the trio, the spokesperson said.

The three accused were already booked in four different cases of drug peddling in various police stations in Poonch, he said.

CS takes stock...

Deputy Commissioner about the status of rescue measures taken so far and removal of injured to the hospitals. He also asked the health department to extend best possible medical care to the injured. He instructed them to make the treatment readily available to them so that they have speedy recovery.

The Chief Secretary also stated that the LG Administration is together with the affected families in this hour of pain and loss. He made out that all measures of rehabilitation would be taken for the bereaved families and those injured in this accident. It was said that few severely injured persons were shifted to GMC Doda and GMC Jammu as per the requirement of their treatment. It was given out that all the possible help is being provided to them as per the directions of the LG.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also offered his sincere condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed for the full and quick recovery of those who were injured in the tragic accident.

India enters into...

it bigger at the big stage.

When it was alleged that India tried to take advantage by opting for spin-friendly track, it was a fast bowler that made the ball talk.

New Zealand folded for 327 in 48.5 overs and India rejoiced a hard-earned memorable victory with yet another team effort, that earned them a shot at their third ODI world title.

A fearless Rohit Sharma (47 off 29) dented the confidence of New Zealand bowlers with his ultra-risk, power-packed knock that blew away the pressure of the big semi-final, leaving the stage for Kohli (117) to conjure up the knock that perched him atop a mountain from where displacing him does not seem possible for a long time to come.

Shreyas Iyer not only watched Kohli take the crown from his idol, Sachin Tendulkar (49 ODI centuries), from the best seat in the house but he himself made a huge contribution in India raising a mammoth total, albeit his knock of 105 was overshadowed due to the sheer significance of Kohli's milestone mark.

New Zealand has always been a big-match team and it fought through Mitchell and inspiring leader Kane Williamson (69) but in the end their efforts only saved them from the ignominy of losing by a bigger margin.

Rachin Ravindra (13) and Devon Conway imploded under pressure and the Kiwis did not get the kind start which is required for such targets.

FOURTH ODI WORLD CUP FINAL FOR INDIA

India have now reached the ODI World Cup final for the fourth time, having won the trophy in 1983 and 2011.

India had ended runners-up in 2003 and will know their title clash rival on Thursday when five-time champions Australia clash with South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

KOHLI'S MAGIC AND KIWIS' STRUGGLE

The New Zealand bowlers surprisingly looked at sea against the home batters, who scored boundaries with consummate ease.

Kohli scaled the highest peak in ODI batting and was the centerpiece of India's domination with his third century of this World Cup, scoring 117 off 113 balls with nine fours and two sixes.

Kohli (713) also became the highest run-getter in a single edition of World Cup, again surpassing the legendary Tendulkar (623 run in 2003)

"The great man just congratulated me. It feels like a dream. Too good to be true. Big game for us and I played the role so that the guys around me can come and express themselves," Kohli said.

Kohli's feat was witnessed not only by Tendulkar, whose record the modern-day great broke, but also by batting legends Sunil Gavaskar, Viv Richards and football legend David Beckham.

Complementing Kohli's sustained brilliance was Iyer's 70-ball 105 laced with eight sixes and four fours a knock that pummelled New Zealand into submission.

If both Kohli and Gill could play their games it was because Rohi's ultra aggressive approach yet again had provided a rollicking start that blew away the pressure of the big game.

It was not a huge score but the way the India captain went about his business in his 29-ball 47-run knock that punctured New Zealand resistance and they could not recover from that.

Rohit went hammer and tongs from the word go to rip apart New Zealand pacers Trent Boult and Tim Southee.

Having stroked his way to 47 with four sixes and as many boundaries, Rohit got beaten by an off-cutter from Southee that ended his assault.

For Rohit had left New Zealand gasping for breath - the usually composed Kiwis

appeared to be scrambling for answers to stop the Indian skipper until Tim Southee found one.

The senior Kiwi bowler produced a smart slower delivery - an off cutter - which lured Rohit to go for another big hit. But this time, he could not connect as well as he had done earlier.

The ball went high in the air but not the distance.

Gill, who was forced to retire hurt due to severe cramps, did well to come out at the fag end and finished at 80 not out off 66 balls, hammering eight fours and three sixes in the process.

India's score was a record total for any team in history of 50-overs World Cup semifinals.

Kohli's strokes pierced the field with utmost precision, the running between the wickets was impeccable as ever and the ball seemed to have hit the meatiest part of his bat most of the times after he survived a close leg-before appeal at the start of his innings.

ACB arrests DCO...

inspector threatened him that he will get his licence cancelled, if he did not pay him bribe of Rs 10,000."

As the complainant was against payment of any bribe, he approached ACB Baramulla with written complaint requesting for legal action against Drug inspector for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 8000 and demanding more bribe of Rs 2000 from him for releasing his seized medicines.

Immediately on receipt of the complaint, official said, a discreet verification was conducted which revealed that the Drug inspector had seized some medicines from complainant and on pretext of releasing them he already took bribe of Rs 8000 from complainant on November 9 and was demanding more bribe of Rs 2000 from him for releasing his seized medicines.

The probe conducted reveal that prima facie offence U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 are made out against accused Public servant namely Ishitiyaq Ahmad Baba, Drug Control Officer Handwara for accepting bribe of Rs 8,000 and further demanding Rs 2000 bribe from complainant for releasing his seized medicines.

As such, case FIR No. 12/2023 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) was registered at P/S ACB Baramulla against Drug Control Officer Handwara and investigations were initiated, official said.

During the course of investigations, the aforesaid officer was caught red handed while demanding remaining amount of Rs 2000 from complainant.

He was immediately taken into custody after completing all legal formalities and was also presented before court at Baramulla which remanded him to police custody. Meanwhile searches were also conducted at his residence situated at Bemina Handina Colony during which cash amount of Rs 2 Lakh was also recovered which was also seized, official said adding that further investigations are going on.

Rajouri Admn celebrates Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: On the occasion of JanJatiya Gaurav Diwas, the Prime Minister of



Admn officials during the programme at Rajouri.

India on Wednesday launched the ambitious 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'. The 72 day nationwide outreach and awareness campaign is aimed at promoting Government schemes to vulnerable sections of the society.

The District Administration of

Rajouri played a pivotal role in bringing the nationwide launch of this grand event closer to its residents by organizing the live telecast of the event followed by commencement of the local Yatra from block Budhal Old today.

The event was graced by the presence of District Development Council Chairperson, Advocate Chowdhury Naseem Liyaqat; District Prabhari Summit Jarrangal, Director Industries & Commerce GOI and Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal.

District Development Council Chairperson, Advocate Chowdhury Naseem Liyaqat passionately emphasized the significance of the Viksit Bharat Yatra, elucidating its role as a transformative nationwide journey aimed at promoting government schemes. His eloquent articulation delved into the far-reaching impact of the yatra, underscoring its pivotal role in ensuring the effective implementation of diverse welfare initiatives across the nation.

District Prabhari, Sumit Jarrangal, Director of Industries & Commerce in the Government of India underscored the significance of various welfare schemes during a recent address. Emphasizing that awareness is pivotal for the successful implementation of government initiatives, he highlighted how informed citizenry plays a crucial role in the overall success of these programs.

Moreover, he specifically highlighted the instrumental role of the "Viksit Bharat Yatra" in this context. This journey, aimed at fostering development across the nation, serves as a platform to enhance awareness and promote engagement with government schemes.

Addressing the event, the Deputy Commissioner expounded upon the expansive scope of the Yatra, which primarily aims at ensuring the effective execution of the Central government welfare schemes in rural India.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, meticulously highlighted the spectrum of government initiatives aimed at comprehensive development. He also underscored the significance of various ongoing projects and schemes, emphasizing their collective impact on enhancing the overall socio-economic landscape of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal also shed light on tribal welfare initiatives. With conviction, he outlined specific measures and programs designed to address the unique needs and challenges faced by tribal communities. Through his insightful enumeration, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the holistic approach of the Government, aiming not only to meet immediate needs but also to create sustainable development pathways for the upliftment of tribal populations.

Among the others, ADDC, Pawan Kumar Parihar; DDC Member Budhal Old, Shazia Kouser; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar; ADC Koteranka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; PO ICDS, Shoket Mahmood Malik; GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; DPO, Auqil Nuvaid; CMO, Dr Rajinder Sharma; CEO Education, Sultana Kouser besides district and sectoral officers were present during the event.

ALC Udhampur reviews progress of ongoing initiatives under various self-employment, individual-oriented schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur, Pradyot Gupta also the Prabhari Officer of Panchayat Thanoa in Block Jaganoo, conducted a thorough review

of the ongoing initiatives under various self-employment and individual-oriented schemes during his visit on Wednesday.

Upon arrival, the PRI members and the local community extended a warm welcome to the visiting officer; actively engaging in the B2V5 programme. Throughout the visit, interactions took place with PRI members, the general public, and officers from various departments, addressing concerns raised by the Gram Sabha during the "Back to Village phase - V" at Panchayat Thanoa. The day witnessed diverse activities, including plantation drives and inspections of departmental stalls. The Visiting Officer emphasized discussions on self-employment schemes from different line departments, focusing on raising awareness through sample projects to encourage entrepreneurial initiatives among the youth of the village Panchayat. Additionally, the Visiting Officer inspected key areas such as Compost pits, Patwar Khana, PMAAY-G houses, Schools, and Anganwadi centers, ensuring a comprehensive overview of the region's developmental landscape.

Prabhari officer were accompanied by Sarpanch Thanoa Bhishan Dass PRI members, Pardeep Kumar along with other senior citizens & staff.



Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur, Pradyot Gupta chairing a review meeting at Panchayat Thanoa.