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Amarnath Cave Shrine...

"With the shrine of Baba Amarnath, lakhs of people have their faith. PDP by opposing and finding faults in the road stretch is trying to repeat the 2008 land row, but people are wise enough and won't fall prey to politics of deceit again," the BJP's J-K spokesperson Altaf Thakur said in a statement.

Mortar shell defused...

later successfully defused it in the fields, they said.

With this, they averted a major tragedy in the area, officials said, adding that the shell was fired by Pakistan rangers during a recent ceasefire violation.

Two personnel and a woman were injured in unprovoked shelling by Pakistan rangers in the Arnia sector on October 27.

Today's recovery of a mortar shell is the second such incident in the past less than a fortnight. Earlier, one mortar shell was detected and defused on October 31 in Arnia.

Oppn bloc INDIA...

Since the BJP's base was expanding and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was getting stronger, opposition parties came together to the form Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), he said.

"They formed the alliance just to oppose Modi. But despite coming together, they are not united. They are contesting elections against each other," he said.

The INDIA bloc is like "Bhanumati ka kumba" (motley group without cohesion), he added.

Incidentally, the Samajwadi Party and the Congress had a spat over seat sharing for the MP Assembly polls. Both are fighting polls separately despite being part of the INDIA bloc.

Attacking the administrative abilities of the Congress, Singh said it was getting tough for the party's governments in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh to give salaries to its employees in time.

"No one can have such complaints under BJP rule. The BJP knows the art of running governments. We consider the janata (public) as 'janardhan' (lord) while the Congress considers their families as janardhan. We consider serving people as our sacred duty," Singh claimed.

Madhya Pradesh was a "BIMARU" state in 2003, when the BJP came to power, but was now a rapidly developing one, he said, adding the ruling party had done in a few years what the Congress couldn't in more than 50 years.

Candles, diyas made...

this skill training initiative.

"We get wax from outside. The material comes from two companies. We boil it and then put it out in a machine for turning it into candles and diyas of various colours. We make candles of several designs," Kumar, who has been in this jail for the past ten years, said.

He said he and his companions feel happy when the candles made by them are used by the people to light up their homes.

Kumar also said that he was grateful to the jail authorities for introducing various initiatives to impart skill training to the jail inmates on various trades.

The jail authorities are selling the candles and diyas at a shop outside Amphalla jail and are also putting them up on sale at shopping marts organised ahead of Diwali.

16.5 lakh households...

percent of the functional household tap connections shall be made functional. It was also highlighted that the pace of the providing of household tap connections have increased from the average rate of 3200 per month previously to 37400 per month during the current year with 41000 tap connections provided in the month of October this year.

It was also appraised that at the current pace of work, J&K was expected to enter into the above 75 percent High Achiever Category (4 star) by November end. On the district front, the it was informed that 09 districts have entered the 4 star category (more than 75 percent), 07 districts have entered the 3 star category (more than 50 percent) in this current year with two districts - Srinagar and Ganderbal having achieved the 100 percent target already.

Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Jeevan Mission apprised that J&K stands at the top among UTs and 3rd overall in the country with respect to Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance with 1.7 lakh test conducted through a network of 98 water testing labs and 32000 women having being trained for use of Field Test Kits for water quality testing so far.

He also stated that a total of Rs. 2100 crores stand spent on Jal Jeevan Mission in the current financial year with transparency, accountability being fostered through disclosure of real-time status of physical and financial progress available on the JJM-IMIS portal of GoI, disclosure of details of release of UT funds available on the Janbhagidari Portal and disclosure of details of allotments of works under various scheme under JJM available on the departmental website of respective Chief Engineers besides various robust interventions like monitoring through District level Project Management Units (DPMUs), Consultants and Third Party Inspection Agencies (TPIAs).

During the review, Dr. Mehta observed that the public involvement through Puni Samitis is key tool for real-time feedback of the work and to create a sense of public ownership of these works. In view of the onset of winter in the Kashmir division, the Chief Secretary directed carrying out work on war-footing and to innovate to ensure that works are completed before peak winters. He enjoined upon all present to ensure that timelines are not breached and works are completed within the timelines set for completion.

Also, the Chief Secretary observed that the upcoming visits of Prabhari Officers during the upcoming 5th Phase of Back to Village Program presents a great opportunity to review the ongoing/completed scheme under JJM and accordingly, issued directions that the same be made one of a focus areas in this edition of Back to Village Programme .

SC collegium recommends...

judge-strength leaving no vacancy at any point of time. Bearing in mind the above, the Collegium has decided to fill up all three existing vacancies by recommending names. "The Collegium deliberated on and discussed the names of chief justices and senior puisne judges of the high courts eligible for appointment to the Supreme Court. Judgments authored by those falling in the zone of consideration for elevation to the Supreme Court were circulated among the members of the Collegium, well in advance, for a meaningful discussion on and assessment of their judicial acumen," the collegium stated.

The collegium said the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court has prepared a compilation of relevant background material to assist it.

Mini bus falls...

Kandi, Mohammad Shabir (40), son of Nazir Hussain, resident of Badhal and Mohammad Azam (37), son of Ghulam Din, resident of Draj Budhal.

Meanwhile, the injured have been identified as Jagdev Singh (30) son of Lal Chand, Kirna Devi (25) wife of Jagdev Singh (25), Jajant Singh (2) son of Jagdev Singh, Naseem Akhter (30) wife of Abdul Rashid, Saika Kouser (4) daughter of Abdul Rashid, Wajid Ali (2) son of Abdul Rashid , all residents of Hubbi, Showket Ali (35) son of Nazir Hussain resident of Kandi, Mohammad Kafil (15) son of Ghulam Rasool resident of Dhar Sakri, Intiaz Ahmed son of Ghulam Mohammad (20) resident of Mogra Draj, Mashooma Begum (64) wife of Abdul Aziz resident of Jaglanoo, Mohammad Altaf (34) son of Abdul Aziz resident of Jaglanoo, Mohammad Younis (55) son of Ali Mohammad resident of Dhar Sakri, Vinod Kumar (55) son of Parshotam Kumar resident of Khawas, Hamida Begum (55) wife of Abdul Aziz resident of Kotranka, Abdul Aziz (62) son of Hassan Mohammad resident of Kotranka, Intiaz Ahmed (24) son of Yaseen resident of Hubbi and Rajeev Singh (38) son of Daleep Singh resident of Sakri.

The condition of five of the injured, including a four-year-old girl, was stated to be critical, they said.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has condoled the loss of lives in the tragic accident, saying

"I am deeply shocked to learn of the unfortunate road accident in Rajouri today, in which precious lives have been lost and many others have been injured. I send my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families and wish those injured a speedy recovery. I have directed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected persons."

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal rushed to GMC&AH to inquire about the condition of injured who had endured a dreadful tempo accident at Kanchi Morh on Rajouri-Kotranka Road. The accident victims were shifted to the hospital for specialized care. Deputy Commissioner Vikas kundal assured that appropriate compensation under rules shall also be given to the sufferers of the mishap.

Tragedy struck as eighteen people were left injured, while the lives of three innocent souls were tragically cut short in a road accident that unfolded at the fateful

Kainchi Morh, situated near Rehan. The heart-wrenching incident occurred when a tempo traveler, en route to Rajouri from Kotranka, lost control and veered off the road, tumbling down a steep gorge.

The aftermath of the accident was nothing short of chaos, with a total of eighteen individuals bearing the brunt of the catastrophe, all left grappling with injuries of varying degrees. These brave survivors were rushed to the GMC Associated Hospital in Rajouri, where a dedicated medical team worked tirelessly to assess and address their conditions.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal engaged with the injured, inquiring about their health and offering words of solace and encouragement. Furthermore, he directed the medical team to provide the injured with the most comprehensive and effective treatment, minimizing the risk of complications and ensuring a smoother path to recovery.

In this trying hour, the Deputy Commissioner extended a heartfelt promise to the injured and their distraught families, assuring them that the District Administration would stand by their side, offering unwavering support and all the necessary assistance required during this difficult and trying time.

Among the others DDC Member Budhal New, Shazia Kouser; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; MS DH, Dr Mehmood Bajar; Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma; DySP HQR, Mudasir Chowdhury and other officers accompanied the DC during his visit.

Parliament panel adopts...

three instead of two days for members to file dissent notes, sources said, adding that the panel has stuck to the deadline of 48 hours.

While some opposition members such as Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary have already submitted their dissent notes, a few others are likely to submit in the next two days.

The committee, the sources said, has stuck to the Hindi names given to the bills and ignored suggestions from some opposition members, including Dayanidhi Maran, that they should have English versions too.

Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshiya Adhiniyam bills in Lok Sabhaon August 11 during the Winter session. They are meant to replace the Indian Penal Code, The Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act and were sent to the committee for scrutiny with a three-month deadline.

Shad had described the current set of laws guiding the criminal jurisprudence as a colonial legacy, a reference to their British Raj provenance, and asserted that they focussed on punishment while the proposed laws give primacy to justice.

The 30-member committee is headed by BJP MP Brij Lal.

The committee has recommended taking a more stringent view of deaths caused by negligence amid criticism that the current statute is too lenient, the sources said.

The committee has also proposed a reduction in sentence for those convicted of deterring public servant from discharging their duties.

The sources said the Section 353 of the Indian Penal Code provides for a maximum of two years of prison term and the committee may seek to slash it to one year. The law is often used against those staging protests and many members of the committee are of the view that common protesters should be dealt with leniently.

It has been reported that the committee has backed a gender-neutral adultery law and punitive measures for non-consensual sex between men, women and transgender people among other recommendations.

Enhance working capabilities...

J&K and reviewed the police functioning at Zonal, Range and District levels besides of other wings of the organization.

The new DGP interacted with senior officers in the PHQ and also various wings of Jammu and Kashmir Police. Outstation officers in the Kashmir Valley and remote districts of Jammu province too participated in the meeting.

At PHQ the meeting was attended by Director SKPAU Garib Dass, IGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain, IGP CID Nitish Kumar, IGP Hqrs/CIV PHQ B S Tuti, IGP Armed Jammu M N Tiwari, DIsG Dr Sunil Gupta, Shakti Pathak, Shridhar Patil, Haseeb ur Rehman, Sarah Rizvi, Nisha Nathyal & Javid Iqbal Matoo, all district SSsP of Jammu Zone (except Samba & Ramban) and all AIsG of PHQ.

ADGsP S. J. M. Gillani, Vijay Kumar, DsIG Sujit Kumar, Vivek Gupta, M Suleman Choudhary, Dr Haseeb ul Mughal, Shahid Mehraj, Abdul Qayoom, Altaf Ahmad Khan, Rayees Mohammad Bhat, all district SSsP of Kashmir Zone, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSP Ramban and SSP Samba attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting the discussions were held in an informal environment to identify the challenges, the work environment related difficulties, as also difficulties in planning and executing responses that are practical and effective.

The DGP took note of the issues raised in the meeting and said, it is absolutely necessary that leaders of the force at different levels must unhesitatingly interact with their junior colleagues and take their feedback so that the police and law enforcement responses are cost effective, public friendly and aligned to national security interests.

The DGP said that it was a great pleasure and privilege for him to have an interaction with all the senior officers of a professional force at a big platform for the 1st time after assuming the charge.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir Police has faced many challenges with fortitude and have made a top position among the different forces of the country. He emphasized upon the officers that there is no looking back rather to look forward to enhance our capabilities of working & functioning to deliver better to the people. He advised for developing competence of personnel in dealing with public, crime, law & order, and generating human intelligence etc.

The DGP directed the officers to work out measures to enhance professional ethics among the personnel and to ensure transparency and accountability in the working. "There should be no hesitation in self correction", Swain said adding that one should take pride in self correction. He directed for optimum use of resources. He ensured that at PHQ level all possible support and resources will be provided to augment and strengthen the working & functioning.

The DGP urged officers to ensure that welfare of personnel should be taken care of at different levels. The senior officers briefed the DGP regarding the functioning of different units and measures taken to extend better police service to the people.

Swain visits injured...

SSP Srinagar Ashish Mishra and other jurisdictional officers.

While enquiring about the health condition of the officer Medical Superintendent Farooq John explained that the officers medical condition is still critical, who continues to be on life support systems.

The DGP directed for best possible treatment be given to the ailing police officer.

Swain also had a separate and long conversation with the father of the police officer and assured the father that all possible help will be provided.

He informed father of injured Inspector that Home Minister Amit Shah, Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) R. K Goyal and other top ranking officers are inquiring about the health of injured officer on daily basis.

The DGP handed over Rupees 1 lakh as financial assistance to the family for meeting the medical attention related immediate expenses.

The DGP assured the family that the Government and Police department will provide all help including airlift of officer outside UT as and when required. The DGP said that the prayers of thousands of Police personnel and common citizens are with family and therefore the family should remain brave.

Former minister Lal...

sheet filed by the CBI in this case which alleged criminal connivance in the issuance of land between January 4 and January 7, 2011, without mentioning details in respect of violation of the ceiling limit of 100 standard kanals imposed under Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, thereby giving undue pecuniary advantage to trust.

Based on this, the trust acquired multiple pieces of land of about 329 kanals vide three gift deeds executed on January 5 and January 7, 2011, the CBI charge sheet claimed.

As the questioning of Lal Singh was underway on Monday, his supporters staged a dharna outside the ED office and chanted slogans in his support and against the BJP.

"It is simply a political vendetta as the BJP-led central government is using federal agencies against its opponents to harass, humiliate and defame them. They have nothing to prove against us and we are not going to bow down before the BJP," Andotra said.

"We will strengthen democracy and safeguard the interests of Jammu. We will not be cowed down by such steps," she said, claiming that the BJP wants to put her husband in jail.

The Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party's women wing president Suman Wazir alleged that Singh was being deliberately harassed as the BJP was feeling threatened from its potential opponents ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year.

"Our leader has a spotless political career and this is the reason for us to come on the roads," she said.

Questioning the timing of the ED action, she said they do not have any objection to an investigation by the federal agency but the problem is that the BJP is using

them to silence the opposition parties.

Israeli forces cut...

group NetBlocks.org. Aid workers say the outages make it even harder for civilians to seek safety or even call ambulances.

Israel has so far rejected US suggestions for a pause in fighting to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries and the release of some of the estimated 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its raid. Israel has also dismissed calls for a broader cease-fire from increasingly alarmed Arab countries including Jordan and Egypt, which made peace with it decades ago.

After days of intense diplomacy around the Middle East, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrapped up his tour of the region on Monday, saying efforts to secure a humanitarian pause, negotiate the release of hostages and plan for a post-Hamas Gaza were still "a work in progress" without pointing to any concrete achievements.

The war has also stoked wider tensions, with Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group trading fire along the border. In another sign of growing unrest, a Palestinian man stabbed and wounded two members of Israel's paramilitary Border Police in east Jerusalem before being shot dead, according to police and an Associated Press reporter at the scene.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with Gaza and the West Bank, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for a future state. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move not recognised by most of the international community and considers the entire city its capital.

In northern Gaza, a Jordanian military cargo plane air-dropped medical aid to a field hospital, King Abdullah II said early Monday. It appeared to be the first such airdrop of the war, raising the possibility of another avenue for aid delivery besides Egypt's Rafah crossing, which has so far been the only entry point.

Over 450 trucks carrying aid have been allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt since October 21, but humanitarian workers say it's insufficient to meet mounting needs in the territory, which is home to some 2.3 million Palestinians. (AP)

NSD's 5-day...

by Dharamvir Bharti and directed by Ram Gopal Bajaj and "Taj Mahal Ka Tender", written by Ajay Shukla and directed by Chittaranjan Tripathy.

"We have 45 team members from the NSD repertory company. We go to every province of the country to showcase these plays so that we connect with them. The situation in Kashmir has returned to normalcy and people are roaming freely even in the night hours.

"People here are very enthusiastic and there's brotherhood too. Despite whatever has happened in the past, art never lost its relevance in Kashmir. It was and it will always be alive," Director NSD, Chitraranjan Tripathy, said.

Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, said such kind of platforms help provide the opportunities of grooming and mentorship to the youth of the region. "When they are rubbing shoulders with the best of the best directors and actors from the country, under the aegis of NSD, I feel youngsters here get a great opportunity and a great platform and at the same time, the standard of the theatre here is uplifted," Shah said. He said there is a need to popularise theatre and these art forms. "We will make sure that such events are held on a larger scale and I am very confident that the cultural academy and all our artists' fraternity will welcome this with open arms," Shah said.

Yudhvir organises Ram Katha to celebrate consecration of Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi on Monday organized a Ram Katha at Shri Haumnam ji Mandir, Gunmat, Jammu, in connection with the consecration of the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024.

The Katha was performed by Pt Sunil Sharma, who threw light on the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu as Shri Ram and the significance of the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

In his address, Yudhvir Sethi appealed to the people of Jammu city to mark their participation in the consecration of the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024.

"It is our good fortune that we are going to witness this historic occasion with the installation of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ayodhya temple in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Sehti said. "This is the culmination of decades of efforts, including the largest mass mobilization post-Independence and a hard-fought legal battle, to reclaim the site."

Sethi said that the consecration of the Shri Ram Temple is a moment of great pride and joy for all Hindus. He termed the consecration of the Shri Ram Temple is a symbol of national unity and harmony, and hoped that it would usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for India.

"I appeal to all the people of Jammu city to mark their participation in this historic event," he added. He also said that those who are able to travel to Ayodhya should do so, so that they can be present for this historic event.

Prominent among those who were present include Ashok Sharma, Secretary J&K Dharmarth Trust, Vijay President Upper Gummat Association, Virinder Gupta dharm jagran manch S Harvinder Singh, Lower Gummat Steps Association, Sanjay Mahey ex Corporator, Gulshan Mahajan ex corporator, Parveen Kerni President East Mandal, Arun Sethi General Secretary East Mandal, Sunita Dadwal Secretary Jammu District, Anuradha Sharma President, Chakshu Kapoor General Secretary Mahila Morecha East Mandal, Ranju Sharma Secretary, Pooja Khajuria Media Secretary East Mandal, Gaurav Kapahi General Secretary Yuva Morecha, Rohit Mehra, Yuva Morecha East Mandal President and Raju Raina.



J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi and others during a religious event in Jammu.

Court made absolute bail of suspended Dy SP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge Anticorruption Srinagar Surinder Singh made absolute bail to suspended Dy SP Sheikh Adil.

Court observed that counsel for the accused/petitioner stated that the accused has complied the directions of this court, and has appeared before the investigating agency as and when directed. He has further argued that the accused is no more required by the investigating agency as the investigation of the case stands completed. Spl PP already filed objections to the application. Nothing substantial was put forth by the prosecution to rebut the plea of the counsel for applicant seeking interim bail to be made absolute inter-alia on the grounds projected by him. No any document has been brought on record by prosecution or the investigating officer against the accused before this court which would suggest that accused have violated any condition of bail. The accused is presumed to be innocent till the guilt is proved. The personal liberty of accused is precious as guaranteed by the constitution of India. In view of the above made discussion, the interim bail granted vide order dated 14-10-2023 is made absolute subject to the little modification in the condition (iv) of bail order that he will not leave the jurisdiction of this court without prior permission of the court or I.O as the case may be.

CAT issues directive on suspension

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu has directed the Secretary, School Education Department, Jammu to conclude the inquiry of suspended lecturer within a period of two months. The Judicial Member Rajendra Dogra has directed that if the inquiry is not completed within a period of two months, the suspension shall be deemed to have been revoked.

Abhinav Sharma, Sr. Advocate, who appeared for the applicant Harmohinder Singh, argued that the applicant who was suspended on 11.03.2023 is still under suspension for more than 06 months. No charge-sheet was issued and neither any inquiry was initiated against the applicant so it is bad in the eyes of law. The Court observed that the Supreme Court has in a catena of cases held that a person cannot be suspended endlessly and the department has to issue charge-sheet within a period of 90 days, in case, if they fail to do so, then they have to review the suspension order by passing a reasoned order, then it can be extended for another 90 days. After 180 days, there is no provision to keep an employee under suspension without serving him charge-sheet and inquiry reports In this case, the applicant is under suspension for more than 06 months and no charge-sheet has been given and no inquiry was conducted, which is bad in eyes of law and Court directed the respondents to conclude the inquiry within a period of 02 months from the date of the order otherwise suspension would cease to exist.