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Great Shivaji's statue...

said, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is an inspiration for every Indian. Maharashtra has a great tradition of sacrifice and bravery. It is indeed commendable that this statue is being erected at Kupwara in the same year as the 350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji, he said.

Sudhir Mungantiwar, Cultural Affairs Minister Maharashtra, speaking on the occasion paid homage to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He said the unveiling of Shivaji's statue is the proudest moment of his life.

Major General Girish Kalia, GOC, Vajr Division presented the National Flags handmade by women of Kupwara to the dignitaries.

Earlier, the Lt Governor paid tributes to the bravehearts of Indian Army and laid wreath at Vajr War Memorial, HQ 28 Infantry Division in Kupwara.

Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K; Major General Girish Kalia, GOC, Vajr Division; Vivek Gupta, DIG NKR Range; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara; Abhayraj Shirore, Founder Amhi Punekar and senior officers of Army, civil and police administration were present at the ceremony.

Penalty proceedings' against...

said that following the government's resolve to make government-to-citizen interactions more transparent and accessible through 1075 e-services, which is highest in the country, along with related IT initiatives such as MobileDost, Rapid Assessment System, DigiDost for doorstep delivery of e-services, linking of services with DigiLocker; there has been "immense progress in mitigating corruption".

"The latest data indicates that more than 52 lakh applications have been processed for availing various services in the online mode of which more than 42 lakh have been disposed of", he added.

Emphasizing the importance of financial discipline in checking the abuse of discretionary authority, Chief Secretary Mehta highlighted the functioning of BEAMS and PaySys linked digital payments have further streamlined the disbursement of time-limits. In tandem with these initiatives, the government has achieved 100 per cent disbursement of financial assistance under 55 flagship schemes in the Union Territory exclusively through DBT mode, he said. More than 92,000 works have been completed during the financial year 2022-23, which is the highest ever; the Jammu and Kashmir chief secretary added.

Liaqat, Atul get...

IR-21st Battalion, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

As per another order, Atul Sharma, Staff Officer to Commandant General IG/CD & SDRF, J&K, shall hold the additional charge of the post of Commandant SDRF 1st Battalion, Srinagar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Naxalites, terrorists get...

power in the country, terrorists and Naxalites get emboldened. News of bomb blasts and murders are reported from here and there. Wherever the Congress is in power, the rule of crime and loot prevails there," he said.

The Congress government has failed to contain incidents of Naxal violence (in Chhattisgarh), the PM said.

"In the recent period, our (BJP) party workers were snatched from us. A few days ago, our colleague (party leader) was shot dead...do you want to live under the shadow of bombs and guns? No matter how much money you have, if your son doesn't return home in the evening and his body reaches, then what is the need of that money," he said.

Therefore, security is important for everyone and it is necessary to remove the Congress from every corner and polling booth, he said.

Attacking CM Baghel over the Mahadev betting app case, Modi said they committed a scam in the name of 'Mahadev' and now this scam is in discussion in the country as well as abroad. There is no need of evidence when the biggest accused of the scam has said on TV that he has given Rs 500 crore bribe to the CM, he added.

Money laundering case....

investigation agency without any fail.

Special judge CBI Jammu Bala Jyoti passed three separate orders after hearing the arguments put forth by special public prosecutor Ashwani Khajuria, appearing for the ED, and Advocate Rajesh Kotwal for the applicants. Singh, his wife and daughter have moved separate applications in the court on November 1 seeking pre-arrest bail for the alleged commission of offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The court granted them interim bail and sought a detailed response from the ED.

Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party, was questioned by the ED on Saturday and Monday.

Last month, the Enforcement Directorate had conducted searches in Jammu and its adjoining areas as part of the money laundering probe against the educational trust of Andotra and a former government official in connection with alleged irregularities in land purchase to set up the trust.

The federal agency had raided about eight premises in Jammu, Kathua and Punjab's Pathankot on October 17 in the case against RB Educational Trust, its chairperson and Ravinder S, a former revenue official.

The money laundering case stems from an October 2021 charge 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. Agreeing with the arguments of Sr PP Khujuria, the judge said, 'Having heard and regard to the nature of allegations and gravity of the accusation and stage of investigation, to my mind the investigating agency must be given sufficient time in conducting an analyzed and effective investigation.' Thus in view of the above, said applicant/petitioner (Lal Singh) is no more entitled to concession of bail at this stage as the same would hamper the ongoing investigation. It must be reminded that pre-arrest bail was granted to the applicant for a limited period on certain conditions including extension of co-operation to the investigating agency," the 10-page order read.

The court said the PMLA gives unfettered powers to the ED for search, seizure and investigation as 'evil of money laundering is a curse and has its diverse impact on the society and its citizens. Money laundering is a serious threat not only to the financial system of our country but also to the global economy at large which is required to be dealt sternly.' Dismissing the bail application of the former minister, the judge said the allegations being grave and serious in nature against the petitioner; this court is not inclined to grant privilege of bail which stands rejected being devoid of any legal force at this stage.

With regard to the application moved by Andotra, a former legislator, the court said the petitioner already is on absolute bail in the CBI charge sheet which is the fountainhead of the predicate offence.

"Besides PMLA terms can be eased for illness and for women...the (interim) bail is extended till November 30 as investigation is still going on and petitioner is directed to co-operate with the investigating agency without any fail," the order said.



Supporters of Ch Lal Singh staging protest outside ED office in Jammu on Tuesday.

Similarly, the court extended the interim bail of their daughter Kranti Singh, one of the trustees of the educational trust, till November 30 with directions not to flout conditions of the bail that included cooperating with the investigating agency without any fail. (PTI)

B2V5 begins in...

the assigned targets are achieved.

Emphasizing the role of self-employment as a driver of the economy, the Chief Secretary asked the POs to identify youth looking for such opportunities and guide their ventures through their respective departments towards saturating the demand. They were further asked to ensure assistance in establishing self-help groups (SHGs), Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), PACS, and coverage under MUMKIN scheme. Clear instructions were given to the relevant departments to offer all possible assistance, including training and financing, to help young people establish their own self-employment units.

The Chief Secretary asked the visiting officers to lay special focus on JJM. He reiterated regular monitoring of water projects under the scheme to ensure the supply of quality drinking water all year round to the residents of each Panchayat. He further asked the officers to expedite the pace of ongoing works to ensure that they are completed by December this year.

It was informed that there are services offered by different departments which can be accessed through 1075 online mobile phones in a hassle-free manner. The visiting officers were asked to promote awareness on all these services.

Dr. Mehta issued instructions to all Prabhari Officers to lay emphasis on PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, PM was Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Vishwakarma, PM Kisan Saman, Kisan Credit Card, PM PRANAM.

During the interactive session, importance of Janbhagidari portal was discussed and nodal officers showcased the ease of retrieval of public information on the ongoing programs in their allocated Panchayats on a real-time basis. The Chief Secretary appreciated the role of such a portal in promoting public surveillance of ongoing projects encouraged the members of gram sabhas to play a more active role in the process of participatory governance.

J&K Police announces...

credible information about the terrorist attacks that took place on three consecutive days from October 30. On October 29, police Inspector Masroor Ali Wani was critically injured when a lone terrorist shot at him while he was playing cricket in the Eidgah playground here. The next day, a non-local labourer Mukesh Kumar was shot dead in the Trunchi Nowpora area of Pulwama. A day later, Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad was shot dead outside his residence in the Wailoo Kralpora area of Baramulla. "Information about the attacker or his associates or helpers or harbourers of the attacker can be shared with any police officer you trust including SSP Baramulla, SSP Srinagar or SSP Pulwama," the police said in the notice.

The police said the information can also be emailed directly to J-K DGP R R Swain at rsrainips@jkpolice.gov.in.

The identification of persons providing credible information shall be kept fully confidential and the informer shall be provided legal and security cover, the notice added.

Birdi is new...

J&K, is temporarily added to the J&K Segment of AGMUT Cadre, in terms of 2nd proviso to sub-rule (2) of Rule 4 of the Indian Police Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954, for a period of two years or till the post is held by said officer, whichever is earlier," read an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

It further stated, "Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IPS (AGMUT:2003), has been posted as IGP Kashmir vice Vijay Kumar, IPS. In addition, the officer shall also hold the charge of the post of IGP Armed Kashmir, till further orders, read the order further."

"The Zonal IGPs of Kashmir and Jammu have been directed to ADGP (Law & Order), J&K, under the overall command and control of DGP, J&K," it added.

Lion couple from Gujarat to reach Jambu Zoo today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A pair of Asiatic lions, a male and female adult individuals aged 3.7 and 2.7 year, is slated to reach Jambu Zoo on Wednesday, November 8.

The Department of Wildlife Protection informed that the lion pair is being brought to the UT on the direction of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

The Asiatic Lion pair, being brought from Gujarat, is an endangered species as per the IUCN. At present, Asiatic Lion wild population is confined only to the state of Gujarat which has donated one pair of Lion to Jambu Zoo.

The pair will be housed in a dedicated Lion enclosure having a space of more than 5500 square meter as per the CZA norms with heating and ventilation facility for extreme weather condition. They will remain under quarantine for a week's time and thereafter will be released in the enclosure for public exhibition.

On this special day, the department has expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor and Government of Gujarat for the guidance and encouragement in sourcing Lion which will bring joy to the people of J&K and Wildlife enthusiasts.

Camera traps spot snow leopards outside Kishtwar National Park

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: At least three camera traps have confirmed the presence of snow leopards outside the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior official of wildlife protection department said on Tuesday.

The development can ensure proper conservation of the endangered species.

The presence of snow leopards was observed in three camera traps set up in the upper reaches of Padder, wildlife warden (Chenab Division) Majid Bashir told PTI.

In May, research teams of the department confirmed the presence of snow leopards in the Kishtwar national park through camera trap photographs.

Bashir said a total of 48 camera traps were installed in Padder, Gandhari and Machail with the help of Mysore-based NGO Nature Conservation Foundation and eight of these cameras were retrieved recently with three of them confirming the presence of snow leopards in Padder area.

"This is for the first time that the presence of snow leopards was captured in camera traps outside the national park," Bashir said.

Mobile internet suspended in parts of Pulwama

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Mobile internet has been suspended in parts of Pulwama district for security reasons, officials said on Tuesday. Directions to the Telecom Service Providers to suspend mobile data services in Wampora and Hunipora areas of the south Kashmir district were issued by Vijay Kumar, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir Zone, the officials said. The ADGP's order mentions the possibility of mobile data services being misused by anti-national elements, which may cause deterioration in public order, the officials added.

The Telecom Service Providers were directed to suspend mobile data within three km radius of these areas from 7 pm on November 5 till 7 pm on November 8, the officials said.

Four loaded magazines seized in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Four loaded magazines along with some loose live rounds were recovered from a pond in Samba district on Tuesday, officials said.

The recovery was made from Jakh village along the Jammu-Pathankot highway during cleaning of the roadside pond, they said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh said the rusted condition of the magazines and the bullets suggest they were dumped in the pond a long time back.

LG chairs Executive Council meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Singh chaired the 34th Executive Council Meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Nilofer Khan, VC Kashmir University; Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Management, Ahmedabad University; Prof. A.S.K. Sinha, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology,



LG Manoj Singh chairing Executive Council meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University on Tuesday.

Amethi; Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT, Jammu, Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, Shri Anshul Gart, CEO, SMVDSB, Sh Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU and other officers.

The Executive Council headed by Lt Governor deliberated various important issues pertaining to the promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups and skill development of the students, increasing enrolment and enhancing the

employability of the academic and training programs.

The Lt Governor directed the University administration for organizing social campaigns on sanitation, Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan, TB Mukht J&K and Aanganwadi Centres.

The University should also undertake activities focusing on educational and socio-economic empowerment of the people, especially the youth living in nearby villages, he said.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented various Agenda items before the Council for approval and ratification.

Govt asks social media firms to identify, remove misinformation, deepfakes within 36 hrs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre has issued an advisory to major social media companies to identify misinformation, deepfakes and other content that violates rules and remove those within 36 hours after being reported to them, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The development comes after a deepfake video of actress Rashmika Mandanna was found circulating on social media platforms earning criti-

cism from several politicians and celebrities. Netizens claimed the video has been morphed and the actual video is of an Indian-origin person living in the UK.

"The Centre today issued an advisory to the significant social media intermediaries to ensure that due diligence is exercised and reasonable efforts are made to identify misinformation and deepfakes, and in particular, information that violates the provisions of

rules and regulations and/or user agreements," the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) said in a statement.

Meity in the advisory has directed that social media companies expeditiously take action against the content that is in violation of the rules and regulations well within the timeframes stipulated under the IT Rules 2021, and users are caused not to host such information, content, deepfakes.

Stop crop residue burning forthwith, can't let people die due to pollution: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid a spike in pollution levels in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to ensure crop residue burning was stopped "forthwith", saying it cannot let "people die" due to pollution.

Questioning the Delhi government's odd-even car rationing scheme, which is aimed at curbing pollution and is scheduled to be enforced in the city from November 13 to 20, the apex court asked about its effectiveness and termed it "all optics".

"I am sorry, this is complete murder of health of people, there is no other phrase I have," said Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who was heading the bench which also comprised Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia.

Another bench of the top

court comprising Justices AS Bopanna and MM Sundresh, which was dealing with the firecrackers ban matter, clarified on Tuesday that the top court's order banning firecrackers containing barium binds every state and was not just limited to Delhi-NCR.

The Justice Kaul-led bench also took a stern view of states trying to shift blame to one another for the pollution and observed there cannot be "political battle" all the time.

While hearing a matter pertaining to the debilitating air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), the bench flagged issues like crop residue burning, vehicular pollution and burning of waste in the open were the major contributors to pollution during this time of the year.

The top court is seized of a

plea filed in 1985 by environmentalist M C Mehta on air pollution and the issue of crop residue burning had cropped up during the hearing of the matter.

Expressing concern over widespread stubble burning which were not stopping following paddy harvest, the bench said, "The concern is this... these farm fires are not stopping. What action the states are taking to stop the farm fires?"

"Delhi cannot be made to go through this year after year," it said.

The bench directed the Delhi government to ensure that municipal solid wastes were not burnt in the open in the city.

On the issue of stubble burning, the counsel appearing for Punjab claimed incidents of crop residue burning have come down by 40 per cent since last year.

"We want to stop all this.

We don't care how you do it. It is your business how to do it. It must stop," the bench told the counsel, adding, "You have to stop it, whether by forceful action, sometimes by incentives, sometimes by other actions, but you have to stop it."

"We cannot let people die because of this (pollution)," the apex court said, while referring to the health related issues being faced by people due to alarming rise in pollution levels.

It said residents of Delhi have been grappling with health issues at this time of the year, year after year, because a solution to the problem has not been found.

"We direct the state government of Punjab and for that matter, all other states adjacent to Delhi, which is Haryana, Rajasthan and UP to ensure that crop burning is stopped forthwith," it said.

The bench made the local station house officer (SHO) concerned, under the overall supervision of the chief secretary, responsible for stopping crop residue burning.

The top court observed it was not saying that crop residue burning was the only contributor to pollution but it was a significant factor during this time of the year.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the pollution matter, spoke of recent media reports about non-operational smog towers, which were installed to combat air pollution, in Delhi. The bench, which asked the chairman of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to remain present before it on the next date of hearing, said it wanted smog towers to be operationalised and asked the authorities to take immediate steps for it.

J&K police file charge sheet against 2 persons affiliated with HM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Tuesday filed a charge sheet against two persons affiliated with proscribed group Hizbul Mujahideen in a case related to their alleged terror activities in Kishtwar district this year, an official said.

The charge sheet against Mohd Yousuf Chouhan and Mohd Amin was filed at the fast-track court of NIA in Doda district. The case was filed under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), he said.

Mohd Yousuf Chouhan was arrested on May 27 with a Chinese grenade in the Cherji area of Kishtwar. His associate, Mohammad Amin, was arrested later, police said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said police have diligently investigated the matter and gathered substantial evidence to support the charges brought forth in the case.