■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh High

Court has taken serious note

of the ongoing staff shortage

in the High Court and

District Courts and directed

Government to complete the

process of creating 334 posts

within 60 days. This decision

came in response to a peti-

tion filed by Joginder Singh

regarding the acute shortage

of staff, pay anomalies, and

promotional avenues for law

graduate Readers in the

A Division Bench of the

High Court, comprising

Justice Atul Sreedharan and

Justice Sanjay Dhar, heard

the petition and expressed

concern over the prolonged

delay in addressing the staff

shortages. The petition, ini-

tially filed in 2017, had

expanded its scope over time

to include staff requirements

and infrastructure issues for

the judiciary. The High

Court has been grappling

with these challenges, espe-

cially after the increase in

the strength of judges from

14 to 17, and now 25, since

The High Court had, in

2014 and 2015, communi-

High Court.

Territory

Union

Petition regarding dearth of staff

DB takes serious note, directs to complete process

cated the need to create 334

additional posts across vari-

ous categories to support the

increased number of judges.

Despite repeated requests

and meetings with the gov-

ernment, no progress was

made in the creation of these

posts for over eight years.

The government had neither

accepted nor declined the

proposal, and in some

instances, the matter was

even withdrawn from the

Finance Department after

being referred for concur-

In February 2023, after

considerable pressure, the

UT government created 24

posts in various categories to

provide support to newly ele-

vated judges. However, the

overall process for creating

the 334 posts remained

stalled. The Division Bench

strongly criticized the gov-

ernment's approach, express-

ing disbelief that the creation

of judicial posts required

approval from authorities

outside the UT government,

specifically the Government

of India. The Court made it

clear that the creation of

such posts should be funded

from the consolidated fund of

the UT and did not require

rence.

!! Continuations from Page 1!! India supports global...

the ancient Sanskrit text of Maha Upanishad.

"Over the last 10 years, we have lifted 250 million people out of poverty," Modi said.

In line with the theme of the session, Modi also gave an overview of India's success in addressing hunger and poverty.

"Over 800 million people are being given food grains free of cost. 550 million people are benefiting from the world's biggest health insurance scheme," he

"Now, 60 million senior citizens, over the age of 70, will also be able to benefit from free health insurance," he said.

"Maintaining our focus on women-led development and social inclusion, over 300 million women micro-entrepreneurs have been linked to banks and given access to credit," Modi added.

The prime minister also spoke about India's crop insurance scheme.

"Under the world's largest crop insurance scheme, over 40 million farmers have received benefits worth 20 billion US dollars," he said.

"Under the farmers' scheme, assistance worth over 40 billion dollars has been given to 110 million farmers. Institutional credit worth 300 billion US dollars

s being given to farmers," he said. Modi said India is not only ensuring food security but also focusing on nutrition. He said New Delhi is also contributing to global food security by sending food items to various countries.

"The main reason for our success is our approach: 'back to basics' and 'march to the future'," he said.

"We have focused not only on natural farming and organic farming but also on new technologies. We have focused on sustainable agriculture, protection of the environment, nutrition and food security by promoting Sri Ann or millets,"

The prime minister said India has developed over 2000 climate-resilient crop varieties and has started the 'Digital Agriculture Mission'.

"India's digital public Infrastructure enabled social and financial inclusion. With the aspirational districts and blocks project, we created a new model for nclusive development that strengthens the weakest link," he said.

Modi began his visit to Brazil after concluding a two-day trip to Nigeria.

LeT ultra arrested...

Chopan, resident of Lurgam Tral.

Incriminating materials along with arms and ammunition including a pistol, 18 pistol rounds and twomagazines have been recovered from his possession. Preliminary investigation revealed that he was involved in several terror related activities in South Kashmir Range. Pertinent to mention that he was involved in case FIR No. 114/2024 under sections 16 of ULAP Act 7/27 of IA Act and 109 BNS of Police Station Tral registered related to firing upon one outside labourer, Shubam Kumar, resident of Bijnore UP on October 24, 2024 in which the labourer was critically injured. Further investigation is going on.

Meanwhile, security forces busted a terrorists' hideout in Shopian district, A joint team of police, army, and CRPF in a search operation in Shopian dis-

trict's Keller found an abandoned terrorist hideout. They found cooking utensils and edible material from there, officials said.

Man held for...

added. Kumar attacked his mother-in-law Shanti Devi, wife Lalita, and sister-in-law Anju Devi with an axe before fleeing the scene leaving the victims in

While the doctors at a nearby hospital declared Shanti Devi brought dead, Lalita and Anju Devi were referred to the district hospital for specialised treatment, police said.

The accused's brother-in-law, Rakesh, claimed that Kumar was under the influence of liquor when he came to their home and fatally attacked his mother, besides injuring Lalita and Anju Devi.

He also said that his sister came home a few days back after a fight with

Kumar over some issue, and the latter was pressing her to return. "He (Kumar) should be handed an exemplary punishment for killing my nother and injuring my sisters," Rakesh said.

SMVDSB approves ropeway... on the traditional trekking path.

The officials said that the journey will be reduced to a few minutes compared to the hours-long trek.

Garg also referred to the inflow of pilgrims to the holy cave shrine, saying ver 86 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance so far this year.

"Till yesterday, this year, 86 lakh pilgrims visited the cave shrine and paid obeisance," the Chief Executive Officer said.

He said that the number of pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi has been ris-

"Last year, the yatra set a new record of 95 lakh, surpassing a significant

milestone in 2023. It is expected to pick up further in the coming days," he As per the monthly figures, a total of 616,609 devotees visited Mata Vaishno Devi in January this year, followed by 432,925 in February, 861,517 in March,

955,575 in April, 1,164,301 in May, 1,115,719 in June, 765,726 in July, 573 730 in August, 678 484 in September and 874 657 in October The daily pilgrim count averaged between 14,000 and 18,000, in the latter

nalf of October, due to the festive season, officials said. Following Diwali and other festivals, daily pilgrim counts have increased

again, currently ranging between 28,000 and 38,000, they said.

From 13.95 lakh in 1986, when the shrine board took over the affairs of the shrine for better management, there has been a steady increase in pilgrim footfall with each passing year, touching an all-time high of 1.04 crore in 2012, against 1.01 crore the previous year (2011).

The shrine has, in recent years, seen a few additions in terms of facilities, ncluding a skywalk at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, a Durga Bhavan, new community kitchen and railway registration centres.

The skywalk and a remodelled Parvati Bhavan were inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu. Moreover, the shrine's base camp in Katra now boasts a state-of-the-art call centre, which operates round-the-clock and manages nearly 2,500 calls every day from pilgrims across the world.

CB files chargesheet...

the daughter of the complainant nor did he return the money. Subsequently, the investigation was transferred to Crime Branch Jammu and the investigation revealed that the accused had committed cheating by

impersonation and duped the retired JCO of his hard-earned money. The accused was arrested from Kashmir following a series of raids at different places and the investigation of the case has been completed, the official

IOC's 7446 bitumen...

was also engaged as transporter of packed bitumen against work order reference: Jammu DO/CFA/01 dated September 17, 2022 and PSO/OPS/LIT/Bitumen/2022-2023 (2022 PSO 1521691) dated June 22, 2022 ex-IOCL Panipat, that M/s Iqbal Motor Transport Service was responsible for delivery of packed bitumen drums to their customer Border Roads Oranization (BRO) at various project sites ex-CFA Jammu and Panipat supply location. Upon reconciliation of supplies with BRO, it was observed that M/s Igbal Motor Transport Service had failed to deliver supplies to the BRO consignees. Due to non receipt of product by BRO, IOCL suffered an additional loss of Rs.3.0054 Cr (2596 drums) that had been handed over to M/s Iqbal Motor Transport Service, but not delivered by the transporter to respective consignees of BRO

Although IOCL handed over the product of 2596 bitumen drums to $\mathrm{M/s}$ Iqbal Motor Transport Service, but the transporter failed to deliver the product to BRO. In view of non-delivery of product to BRO consignees, the total loss to the corporation is revised to be Rs.11.725 Crore (Rs.8.72 Cr Inventory Loss + Rs 3.005 Crore due to 31 invoices) out of which Rs. 3.92 Crores have been recovered by enchasing the available Bank Gurantee

As the contents of the complaint and preliminary verification report reveal that the accused by hatching criminal conspiracy have committed criminal breach of trust, cheating and forgery, thereby causing wrongful oss to the Government of India Undertaking i.e IOCL and wrongful gain to themselves, a case u/s 406, 408, 409, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC is registered at EOW, Crime Branch Jammu against Haji Ghulam Qadir Akhoon and others for in-depth investigation.

Properties worth Rs...

was attached by the Mattan police station, he said.

"Bhat, a habitual offender, is involved in multiple NDPS cases for his role in the illegal narcotics trade," he added.

In another case, the Srigufwara police station attached three commercial shops valued at Rs 70 lakh, owned by Peer Asif Ahmad Shah and Peer Towseef

"Both the accused are under investigation for their involvement in severa NDPS cases." the spokesman said.

Amit Shah reviews Manipur...

top officials of the central and state governments, the sources said. This was the second consecutive day that Shah reviewed the situation in

Manipur He took stock of the deployment of central forces there and directed the offi-

cials to restore peace and order there as early as possible, they said. The situation in the northeastern state, which has been reeling from ethnic strife since May last year, has been volatile following protests and violence after the recovery of bodies of women and children.

Irate mobs set fire to the residences of three more BJP legislators, one of whom is a senior minister, and a Congress MLA in various districts of Imphal Valley on Saturday night even as security forces foiled an attempt by agitators to storm the ancestral residence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

These incidents took place even as several restrictions were imposed after people, agitated by the killing of three women and three children by militants in Jiribam district, attacked the residences of three state ministers and six MLAs earlier on Saturday.

Enraged people torched the houses of PWD Minister Govindas Konthoujam at Ningthoukhong, Hiyanglam's BJP MLA Y Radheshyam at Langmeidong Bazar, Wangjing Tentha's BJP MLA Paonam Brojen in Thoubal district and

Khundrakpam's Congress MLA Th Lokeshwar in Imphal East district. The legislators and their family members were not at home when the mobs stormed their residential compounds, vandalised properties and set the houses on fire, police said, adding the houses were partially burnt in the incidents

On November 11, Manipur Police said 10 suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces after insurgents in camouflage uniforms and armed with sophisticated weapons fired indiscriminately at Borobekra police station and an adjacent CRPF camp at Jakuradhor in Jiribam.

Hours later, suspected militants allegedly abducted six civilians, including women and children from the same district, police said.

On Saturday, the Union home ministry said all security forces deployed in Manipur have been directed to take necessary steps to restore order and peace in the state.

It said armed miscreants from both communities in conflict have been indulging in violence leading to unfortunate loss of lives and disruption in pub-

The home ministry said strict action would be initiated against anyone trying to indulge in violent and disruptive activities.

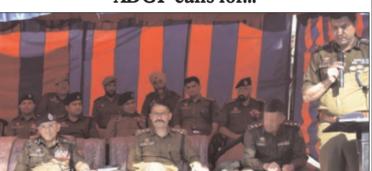
Seeing the fragile situation, the Centre on Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam.

More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

It started after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST)

The ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by the clashes witnessed violence after the mutilated body of a farmer was found in a field in June this year.

ADGP calls for...



ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain during visit to border area in Jammu.

to secure convictions, expedite case disposals and reduce case backlogs, the

The ADGP has been visiting grassroots levels in various districts, including border areas, to review the security situation, operational preparedness deployment and training of police forces.

House of absconding...

summons and a proclamation issued under Section 82 CrPC, the accused as evaded legal proceedings, prompting the court to authorize the attachmen

as a measure to compel his surrender. Police has reiterated its commitment to ensure that the rule of law is uphelo and offenders are brought to justice. The public has been requested to cooperate with the police and provide any information regarding absconders.

CJ lays foundation...

Atul Sreedharan, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice V.C. Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Judges of High Court of J&K and Ladakh were present during the foundation stone laying ceremony while Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri participated virtually

To support the infrastructural requirements at J&K Judicial Academy Jammu, the proposed mini auditorium with a seating capacity of around 120 pax is a vindication of the novel initiative by the Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The mini auditorium will facilitate in improving the training quality and capacity for our Judicial Officers and other stake

The function was also attended by Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Yash Paul Bourney, PDJ Jammu; M.K. Sharma Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Sonia Gupta, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computers along with other officers of the registry, Rajesh Gupta, Chief Engineer, Department of PW(R&B) and his

Woman delivers babv...

on-duty doctor, without examining the patient, referred her to a sub-district hospital due to the non-availability of a gynaecologist.

However, the woman gave birth on the road while they were heading to the hospital in a cab.

During his visit to PHC Teryath on Monday, the deputy commissioner interacted with the woman and her family to understand the circumstances leading

He assured the family of strict action and emphasized that such incidents are unacceptable in a system committed to providing accessible healthcare to all, an official spokesperson said.

While addressing the health officials present, the deputy commissioner directed them to work with utmost sincerity and diligence to prevent such incidents in the future.

Girl killed, other injured in bike-dumper collision

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: An eighteen year-old girl was killed while as another one was injured in an accident at Darshan Nagar tehsil Nowshera of Rajouri district on Monday. According reports a motorcycle bearing registration number JKO2BD 1223 collid-

ed with a dumper bearing registration num-

ber JK11D-8195 at Drashan Nagar



Nowshera resulting in on spot death of girl and injury to other.

The deceased has been identified as Shilpa

as Aatish Sharma son of Sadhu Ram resident of Nonial. Nowshera Police reached on spot and body

daughter of Ram Krishan resident of

Kalakote and the injured has been identified

of girl was sent to sub district hospital Nowshera for postmortem. Both vehicles were seized and a case was registered for further investigation.

of creating 334 posts within a period of 60 days The Court also observed that despite several directives, the bureaucracy had been slow and casual in responding to the High Court's needs. The UT government's continued use of vague timelines and phased compliance was deemed inadequate. Additionally, the Court condemned the government's attempt to compare the staffing needs of J&K High Court with those of other states, emphasizing that such comparisons were irrelevant due to the unique challenges faced by J&K,

such as dual seating in

Jammu and Srinagar. In response to the UT's non-compliance, the Court directed that the process to create the 334 posts be completed within 60 days. The Court further warned that failure to comply with this directive would result in the appearance of top government officials in person to explain their inaction. The High Court also made it clear that it would not tolerate any further delay or attempts to downplay the issue and warned of contempt proceedings if the government's actions continued to defy judicial orders.

CUJ students visit 3-days educational trip to CSIR-IHBT Palampur



STATE TIMES NEWS

Fifty-three students from the Centre for Molecular Biology at the Central University Jammu, including M.Sc. Biotechnology students and embarked on a three-day educational trip to the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.

Accompanied by faculty members Dr. Shelly Sehgal and Dr. Swarkar Sharma, the trip combined academic learning, hands-on experiences, and exposure to cutting-edge research environments.

At CSIR-IHBT, students explored state-of-the-art labfacilities and advanced instrumentation, gaining firsthand experience in biotechnology, molecular processing. A visit to

lization. The institute's focus on Himalayan bioresources provided valuable insights into current research and the application of sophisticated technologies. Interactions with IHBT allowed students to delve into ongoing projects, offering a glimpse into potential career opportunities in biotechnology. Dr. Narendra Bairwa, Head of the Department at Central University Jammu, emphasized the importance of such engagements, noting that they broaden students' perspectives and encourage curiosity and innovation. Beyond their academic

exposure, the students visited the renowned Kangra tea gardens, learning about the tea production $_{
m entire}$ from cr iltivation to

Sourabh Van Vihar, a lush eco-park, deepened their understanding of biodiversity and ecological conservation. The trip also highlighted the socio-economic value of biodiversity, particularly through the tea industry's impact on the Himalayan region's economy.

Dr. Swarkar Sharma, one of the faculty members accompanying the group, highlighted the relevance of biotechnology to local economies and how it can be leveraged for innovation and startup opportunities.

The tour was part of Central University of Jammu's commitment to providing students with diverse learning experiences, with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain stressing the importance of field trips in fostering practical knowl-

Mahant Rohit Shastri submits memorandum to Admin Secy SED

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and a State Award recipient, submitted a memorandum to Suresh Gupta, Administrative Secretary of School Education

Department, in Jammu In this memorandum, he raised a critical issue concerning the non-advertisement of Sanskrit lecturer posts in higher secondary schools across Jammu and

Kashmir. This delay has left many Sanskrit scholars unable to apply for these posts, with several exceeding the age limit due to the prolonged governmental inaction.

Mahant Shastri stressed the importance of promptly advertising these vacancies. emphasizing that this step is essential to fulfilling the aspirations of scholars dedicated to preserving and enriching the region's academic and cultural legacy



through the Sanskrit lan-

Additionally, he called for the introduction of Sanskrit as a mandatory subject from Class 6 onwards in all schools across Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the region's deep-rooted connection to Shaivism and its rich Sanskrit tradition, Shastri reminded the government of the area's historic significance. He cited renowned figures such as Acharya Abhinavagupta, the philosopher of Pratyabhijñ?; Mahakavi Kalhana, the author of Rajatarangini; and Mahakavi Bilhana, among other illustrious Sanskrit scholars who have contributed immensely to global intellectual and spiritual heritage.

He expressed concern that the cultural and linguistic traditions of the region are eroding, underscoring that immediate action is necessary to revive and sustain the Sanskrit heritage. Shastri believes that advertising Sanskrit lecturer posts would inspire scholars and rejuvenate interest in Sanskrit studies, restoring the language's prominent role in Jammu and Kashmir.

Aditya Abhiraj Sharma, a member of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, was also present during the submission, demonstrating the collective support for these demands aimed at reviving Sanskrit education in the region.

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