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LG urges national...

Sourcing Fair" is now a gathering point for buyers from India and abroad, and is making a valuable contribution to the growth and development of textile industry and benefitting the local artisans, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs", he added.

"A resurgence of the textile sector is underway in Jammu & Kashmir. Over the past 50 months, this sector, while celebrating rich textile traditions of the Union Territory, has achieved impressive growth rates and we are determined to go much further with new initiatives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the reform-oriented policies and programmes of the government, especially in the textile sector, are designed to provide a boost to the craft industry. He said the unique cultural and artistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir are globally competitive and invariably gifted. Further, the Government has given a major thrust to the development of necessary infrastructure, financial assistance and skill training to the artisans, he added. The Fair, organised by the Department of Industries & Commerce, J&K Trade Promotion Organisation and Handloom Export Promotion Council, at SKUAST Kashmir, was attended by the National and International buyers, exporters and importers. It provided a platform for B2B meetings, exhibitions, and workshops, enabling participants to connect with national and international buyers, update all the stakeholders about market trends and enhance the requisite skills.

Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Khalid Jahangir; Managing Director, JKTPO; senior officials, artisans; entrepreneurs and various stakeholders were also present.

Earthquake of 5.8...

71.27 degrees east, at a depth of 165 km, officials said. They said so far there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property anywhere in the Kashmir Valley.

UG students to...

has approved the SOPs for HEIs to offer the Accelerated Degree Programme (ADP) and Extended Degree Programme (EDP) in a meeting this week. The draft norms will now be put in the public domain for feedback from stakeholders.

While the degrees will mention a self-contained note that the academic requirements needed in a standard duration have been completed in a shortened or extended duration, they will be treated at par with standard duration degrees for academic and recruitment purposes.

Top foreign universities also offer the option to students to finish their degree earlier or later than stipulated duration. "Students can use this option to shorten or extend their study durations based on their learning abilities. ADP allows students to complete a three-year or four-year degree in reduced time by earning additional credits per semester; while EDP enables an extended timeline with fewer credits per semester," Kumar told PTI.

"Under ADP and EDP, students earn the same total credits as in the standard-duration programme. The higher education institutions will establish committees to evaluate students' eligibility for these programmes. These degrees will be equivalent to standard duration degrees for all employment and academic purposes," he added.

According to the SOPs, the institutions may earmark up to 10 per cent of the sanctioned intake for ADP. The HEIs may constitute a committee to scrutinize applications received at the end of the first or the second semester under EDP and ADP and select students accordingly. In the ADP, students will follow the same curriculum content and total credits prescribed for the programme for a standard duration.

"The only change will be in the duration of the programme. Students shall have the option to choose ADP either at the end of the first semester or the second semester and not beyond that. Students opting for the ADP will earn additional credits per semester starting from the second or third semester, depending on when they transition to the ADP," Kumar said. "If they join the ADP after the first semester, they will begin earning extra credits from the second semester onward. Similarly, if they join the ADP after the second semester, the additional credit load will start from the third semester onward," he added. In a three-year or four-year undergraduate programme, the duration may be extended up to a maximum of two semesters. "Accordingly, students can earn fewer credits in each semester. Based on the credit structure in the Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes, the committee shall decide the minimum number of credits a student must earn in a semester in EDP," he said.

The UGC has noted that the HEIs may issue degrees for students on completion of the programme in the opted duration (shortened or extended duration) and need not wait to complete the standard duration for the award of the formal degree. "For the accelerated and extended degrees, a self-contained note should be added in the degree stating that the academic requirements required in a standard duration have been completed in a shortened or extended duration. "For an ADP of a four-year undergraduate programme, the note should specify that the student completed the academic requirements of a four-year programme in six or seven semesters, as the case may be," Kumar said.

The committee constituted by the HEI will evaluate the credit-completing potential of a student based on their performance in the first or the second semester and give its recommendations. The committee shall then recommend a reduction or an increase in the number of courses and total credits per semester; as per the duration opted by the students.

"Under the ADP and EDP, the transcripts should record only the courses the students take in a semester. The examination and evaluation system will remain the same as the programme with a standard duration," Kumar said.

Police attaches properties...

Chief Investigating Officer, was presented before the NIA Special Court, Doda. Earlier, 36 terrorists from Kishtwar operating from PoK/Pakistan were declared absconders by the NIA Court, Doda. Among these, seven terrorists had their properties identified for attachment as part of the legal proceedings.

After reviewing the evidence, the Judge NIA Special Court, Doda Sudesh Sharma, issued attachment orders under Section 83 CrPC vide order No. 757-59/FTC/D/NIA dated November 27, 2024.

Following the directions of the NIA Court, Doda, the SSP Kishtwar formed a special teams, comprising senior officers accompanied by Executive Magistrates to execute the orders. The attached properties have been marked with signboards to notify the general public. These include 9.5 Marlas of land under Survey No. 139/1492/1118/1081/866 in the village of Bhagna, Tehsil Nagseni belonging to Shahnawaz Ahmed, son of Gh. Mohd, resident of Chirool Padyarna; 10 Marlas of land under Survey No. 936 min, located in the village of Keshwan belonging to Bashir Ahmed Mughal, son of Gh. Qadir Mughal, from Jugna Keshwan; 12.5 Marlas of land under Survey No. 1321/887/6 min, situated in the village of Keshwan owned by Gazi-ud-Din, son of Mohd Ayoub Gujjer, resident of Jugna Balna Keshwan; 1 Kanal and 5 Marlas of land under Survey No. 966, also in the village of Keshwan owned by Sattar Din, son of Mehar Din Gujjer, from Jugna Keshwan; 1 Kanal and 4 Marlas of land under Survey No. 330/710/1155/513 in the village of Lachdayaram held by Intiyaz Ahmed, son of Aziz Mohd. Sheikh, resident of Banderna Kishtwar; 1 Kanal and ½ Marla of land under Survey No. 5586/5045/1098 min, located in the village of Kishtwar possessed by Muzaffer Ahmed, son of Abdul Samad Dev, who lives in Senna Colony Zewar Kishtwar and 13 Marlas and 205 square feet of land under Survey No. 201 min, situated in the village of Pochal owned by Javid Hussain Giri, son of Mod. Amin Giri, from Kundali Pochal.

ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, has said that properties of 29 additional absconding terrorists have been identified. The process for their attachment is underway and will be completed shortly, further tightening the noose around terror operatives. The ADGP reaffirmed that such actions are part of a broader strategy aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem, ensuring that no asset is used to fund or support anti-national activities.

Issuing a strong warning, the ADGP Jammu emphasized that those harboring anti-national intentions or providing any support to terrorists will face severe consequences. He urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement agencies by reporting any suspicious activities.

This robust action reflects the unwavering resolve of J&K Police to safeguard the region's peace and uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the Nation.

SC issues notice...

hearing a CBI plea against the September 20, 2022 order of a Jammu trial court that directed Malik, serving life term in Tihar jail, to be produced before it physically to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses in the kidnapping case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of politician Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.Observing that even Mumbai terror attack convict Ajmal Kasab was given a fair trial, the bench had earlier said that it could order trial to take place inside the jail besides asking the judge to come to the national capital for the proceedings. Mehta had said Malik physically appearing in the Supreme Court had raised security concerns previously.

Court discharges three...

this stage being involved in the commission of offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life. So, their bail applications stand dismissed accordingly and be made part of the record. Court further observed that before parting, it needs to be brought on record that In-charge Police Post Greater Kailash namely PSI Puneet Sharma along with his team of officials is stated to be present on spot right from the moment the victim party arrived. But he took no action and allowed the accused persons to assemble on spot at the first place and paid no heed to the repeated requests of the victim party which ultimately resulted into the loss of a precious human life. Had this officer performed his official duty and intervened,

the situation might have been altogether different. His conduct all along together with the clear allegations by the complainant party that he was hand in glove with the accused party, lead to one and only inference that he had taken side and was helping the accused party in pursuing their goal. But all these aspects have not been taken care of and investigated by the Investigating agency. So, it is expected and hoped that further investigation into all these aspects is carried out and concluded at the earliest.

Secondly, the accused persons are stated to be business associates and huge amounts have been received on account of the sales. Therefore, it was imperative to examine the mode of payments adopted and go to the trails of that money so as to find out the real beneficiaries. The investigating agency was further required to examine the ITRs of the persons involved but nothing of that sort has been done.

Rattan Dev Singh, who occupies the center stage in all these transactions, has been conveniently cited as witness by believing his cock and bull story. It is inferable from his statement that he has allowed all these benami transactions carried out in his name or he was also a business associate of the accused persons. But these aspects have also not been dealt adequately. Thirdly, the revenue officers/officials, who have issued the extracts of the record without visiting the spot have a crucial role in such crimes. A naked eye view of the Aks Tatimas attached to the sale deeds executed on 22nd April and 6th June 2019, in favour of Reva Gupta for 1 kanal and half marla, Ramesh Singh and Reva Sharma for 3 V marlas each respectively for the land sold out of the same survey number are remarkably different. The physical boundaries of these small portions vis-a-vis the surroundings thereof have also not been given and there is no mention of any road or public lane were existing in the vicinity. Most of the disputes like in the instant case also arise on account of these serious lacunas left out purposely to give a free hand to the landsharks to lay claim over any land. But these aspects have also not been gone into by the investigating agency.

Court further observed that the manner in which the charge sheet has been drafted and the documents are bundled together without proper arrangement, numbering and indexing and some of the papers have been repeated randomly amply reflect that investigation has not been given due seriousness. Such charge sheets increase the work of trial courts manifold besides, reflecting upon professional capabilities of the investigating agency in heinous offences. In the circumstances, SSP Jammu is directed to look into and get the needful done at the earliest so that a free, fair and impartial trial is ensured.

Theme of terrorism...

casteless Army, it enhances the camaraderie and diminishes the fault lines, he said delivering a lecture here on Wednesday.

Notably, Manipur has been rocked by ethnic clashes between Meitei and Kuki communities since last year. Delivering a lecture on 'Role and Contribution of Indian Army in Securing India's Growth Story', under General BC Joshi Memorial Lecture Series, General Dwivedi also talked about Agniveers and said these young individuals are shaped by discipline and knowledge. The Army is an apolitical force which draws its human capital from all over the country, he said. General Dwivedi asserted that socio-cultural values of the Army are very strong and the force plays a pivotal role as a melting pot.

"If one listens to the dialogues in movies based on the valour of the Indian Army – right from 'Haqeeqat' (1964) to Vicky Kaushal-starrer Uri (2019) – one will come to know it plays a pivotal role as a melting pot," he said.

"We are an apolitical and 'areligious' Army, drawing its human capital from all districts of the nation. Despite that, Hindi serves as a binding language. Siachen Baba at the Siachen base, is one example where all religious gods are under one roof," he told the gathering.

CS reviews status...

other concerned officers. The Chief Secretary took this occasion to emphasise on the implementing agency to make all the towers go on air that had been erected so far. He urged them that the local administration would extend every possible assistance in terms of seeking the necessary NoCs besides provisioning of amenities like electricity to the sites of these towers. He directed the Power Development Department to take measures for making the electric connections available to the telecom service providers as soon as they complete the work on the installation of towers there.

Dulloo also enjoined upon the BSNL to reconcile the figures about the untraceable/uninhabited villages with the Revenue Department so that no habitation remains shadow area at the culmination of this scheme.

The CGM, BSNL informed the meeting that out 852 sites proposed by BSNL, land at 722 sites were given by the Revenue Department. He further made out that civil work was started at 593 sites with tower installation completed at 415 locations.

It was further added that 306 towers had been made functional and the works for 99 more towers is currently under progress. The status of forest clearances and power connections were discussed and the TSP directed to complete the work within the set timeframe.

Later, the Chief Secretary, while reviewing the status of Bharat Net for providing broadband services to Gram Panchayats, stressed on the executing agency to apprise the local administration about the functioning of the internet connectivity in each GP besides the usage in terms of data consumption registered by these Panchayats.

He advised the Department to evolve a mechanism with private players who would use this network to provide services to the villagers along with fetching some revenue to government simultaneously. He asked to give the timeline for completing the 2nd phase of this programme. It was given out that under phase first 427 GPs were connected through OFC in J&K. Under phase 2nd, it was added, that 692 more Panchayats would be covered through VSAT.

4 days WCC...

France, the UK, Ireland, and Central Asia. In addition, artisans from various parts of the world attended, showcasing their unique crafts and fostering a cultural exchange with local artisans. Organized by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the event was aimed at promoting the region's rich artisanal heritage while strengthening global networks within the craft sector. The celebration began with a Craft Safari in Srinagar's Old City, allowing delegates to experience the vibrant local craft scene firsthand. Following this, a meeting with local stakeholders and government officials was held at the Government Arts Emporium, Srinagar, where valuable discussions on promoting traditional crafts took place.

On the final day, delegates enjoyed an authentic Kashmiri breakfast on a houseboat in Nigeen Lake, followed by visits to the Hazratbal Shrine, Nishat Garden, and a viewing of the largest carpet made, symbolizing the region's remarkable weaving tradition.

This successful event not only highlighted the unmatched craftsmanship of Jammu & Kashmir but also reinforced its position as a significant hub in the global craft ecosystem.

DGP conference to...

deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from district, state and national levels on identified themes, the official said.

Best practices from states and Union territories under each of the themes will be presented at the conference so that the states can learn from each other.

Since 2014, the prime minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference.

Free flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned in this year's conference. This will provide an opportunity to the senior police officials to share their views and recommendations with the prime minister on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country. Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. The following year, after the Modi government came to power, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB), outside the national capital.

Parliament washed out...

our House of Elders, guided by the spirit of nationalism, to send a powerful message of hope to 1.4 billion Indians, reaffirming our commitment to their dreams and journey towards Viksit Bharat at 2047," he said.

"Yet, with deep regret, I must say we missed this historic opportunity. Where there should have been productive dialogue echoing the collective aspirations of our nation, we fell short of our people's expectations," he lamented.

Dhankhar said the chamber was more than just a house of debate. "It is from where our national spirit has to echo."

"Parliamentary disruption is not a remedy but a malady that weakens the very foundation of our democracy. It slides Parliament into irrelevance. The sanctity of this House demands debate, not discord; dialogue, not disruption," he said amid slogan shouting by the opposition members. Dhankhar said, "We must continue to have our relevance. When we engage in this kind of conduct, we deviate from constitutional ordainment and we turn our back to our duties." The chairman said deviating from constructive discussion was a failure to honour the trust of millions who looked to them as guardians of their democratic aspirations. "I urge you all to embrace the spirit of meaningful dialogue. Let us return to our tradition of thoughtful discussion and deliberation. In this spirit, I request your cooperation in proceeding with today's agenda," Dhankhar said, urging the protesting opposition members to embrace the spirit of meaningful dialogue.

Noting that he could not allow the House to sink to irrelevance, he said, "We should not dishonour the spirit of those who gave us this Constitution." However, as the protests continued, the chairman adjourned the House for the day. The Upper House will reconvene at 11 am on Friday. When the Upper House convened at the start of the day, proceedings were adjourned for nearly 50 minutes till 12 noon as opposition MPs protested against the rejection of adjournment notices for a discussion on the allegations against the Adani Group in the US, and violence in Manipur and Sambhal. Shortly after the laying of listed papers in the morning session, Dhankhar said he had received 16 notices for adjournment of scheduled business under Rule 267 of the House.

LS extends tenure...

submit its report to the Lok Sabha. The Lok Sabha had constituted the committee on

August 8 and asked to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the Winter session, which is on Friday.

Getting caught up...

Party leader cautioned against the dangers of religious polarisation. "Getting caught up in matters of religion is not right. It is not good for the unity and integrity of the country, nor is it good for society," Azad said in response to a question on the recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal which killed four people. Expressing concern over such developments, he warned that they could further divide communities and disturb peace. Replying to another question regarding the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Azad said, "The demand for statehood has been there from the beginning. This is not something new," he said, emphasising that it was necessary for the welfare of the people of J-K.

Kashmir reels under...

the season. Qazigund – the gateway town to the valley in south Kashmir – recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, which was the season's lowest so far.

The minimum in Pahalgam tourist resort, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, settled at minus 5 degrees Celsius – the coldest weather station in the Valley. It was also the coldest night of the season at the resort.

The famous ski resort Gulmarg registered a low of minus 2.5 degree Celsius, while Kupwara shivered at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag in south Kashmir was the only weather station in the valley where the minimum settled above the freezing point at 0.2 degree Celsius, the officials said.

Two drug peddlers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: In a significant action against the drug menace, Sopore Police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered a large quantity of psychotropic substances from their possession.

A team from Police Station Sopore, along with Police Post Bus Stand, headed by SHO Sopore and under the supervision of SDPO Sopore, intercepted two suspicious individuals at a checkpoint in Neharpora Sopore.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Nazir Ahmad Shah alias Bedana and Nasir Yousuf Shah alias Bada Anta, both residents of Neharpora Sopore. During the search, officers recovered 264 capsules of the banned drug Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus.

A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered (FIR No. 243/2024) at Police Station Sopore, and further investigation is underway.

The public is urged to cooperate with the police in eradicating the drug menace from society, as police continue to take stringent action against offenders.

Two vehicles seized, drivers arrested for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: In a crackdown on illegal mining and transportation of minerals, the Sopore Police seized two vehicles and arrested two individuals for their involvement in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals.

A team from Police Station Tarzoo, led by SHO Tarzoo, intercepted and seized two tractors used in the illegal activity.

The arrested drivers have been identified as Javaid Ahmad Dar, son of Mohammad Ramzan Dar, resident of Haritar Sopore and Parvaiz Ahmad Rather, son of Ghulam Ahmad Rather, resident of Tarzoo Sopore.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the law at Police Station Tarzoo, and investigations are ongoing.

Police have urged the public to report any illegal mining activities to help curb this menace.

Bike stolen in broad daylight

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A case of vehicle theft has been reported by Sanjeev Kumar, son of Pritam Dass, a resident of House No. 38, Sector 2, Sanjay Nagar, Jammu. According to the report, Kumar's vehicle, a Pulsar 150 motorcycle, bearing registration number JK02CA-5603 (black in color), went missing on 27th October 2024.

The vehicle was last seen parked outside his residence in Sanjay Nagar, Jammu. Kumar immediately reported the theft to the local authorities, and an FIR No. 0219 was registered at Gandhi Nagar Police Station.

Anyone with information regarding the missing vehicle is requested to contact Gandhi Nagar Police Station or reach out to Sanjeev Kumar directly at 7889660141.

The police are actively investigating the matter and have urged the public to remain vigilant in order to assist in locating the stolen vehicle.

Trouble-Monger booked for circulating hate comments on Social Media

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police have booked an individual for circulating hateful comments on social media, which hurt religious sentiments and posed a threat to public peace.

The complaint, received at Police Station Doda, reported that a juvenile (name withheld) had shared inflammatory content online, potentially escalating law and order issues in the area.

An FIR (No. 290/2024) was immediately registered under sections 299, 352 BNS, and 67 of the IT Act.

Doda Police took swift action, dispatching teams to various locations, conducting late-night raids, and ensuring heightened security in the area.

With the support of the local community, the police successfully apprehended the juvenile and presented him before the Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board, Doda. The juvenile was subsequently placed in observatory home custody in Jammu for 15 days.

SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta, emphasized that no individual will be allowed to disrupt the peaceful environment of the district. He assured that strict legal action will be taken against anyone attempting to undermine public harmony through unlawful acts. The investigation into the case is ongoing.

36 e-rickshaws, 12 two wheelers, two school vans seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to ensure the safety of general public, a special traffic drive was launched on Thursday against the violators in different locations of Jammu city.

During the drive, 36 e-rickshaws, 12-two wheelers, two school vans were seized in different violations at different locations of Jammu city under MV Act.

General public is advised to adhere the traffic rules and regulation and not to drive without valid driving license to avoid action against them. Further the drivers of auto-rickshaws are advised to carry valid documents and also abstain from over-charging to avert action under MV Act. SSP Traffic City Jammu apprised the public that such drives against violators shall continue in future and also warned the motorist who are tampering/hiding their number plates to abstain from such activities otherwise strict action under law shall initiated against them.

Security forces seize 2 IEDs, explosive material

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: Security forces recovered two IEDs and explosive material during a search operation in Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

After a suspicious object was reportedly noticed under the Chajla bridge in Mendhar, the area was immediately cordoned off, and the bomb disposal squad called in, they added. Two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), over one kg of explosives suspected to be RDX, a battery, two blankets and some eatables were seized, officials said. Further investigation is underway, they added.

Two terror associates held in Doda, Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Thursday arrested two terror associates allegedly conspiring to execute subversive activities in Doda and Udhampur districts, officials said.

A police team arrested a hardcore terror associate named Firdous Ahmed Wani from the Dandi area in Doda district's Bladerwah belt based on credible intelligence, they said. The accused was reportedly in contact with terrorist handlers across the border through various social media platforms. He was actively working to revive militancy in Doda by establishing a foothold for anti-national elements in the area, officials said. A thorough search of the suspect and his residence led to the recovery of incriminating materials and documents, which have been seized for further investigation, they added. The accused was allegedly conspiring to execute subversive activities in and around Doda in collaboration with active terrorists and handlers operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (POK), police said. In another operation, police arrested a hardcore terror associate under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Udhampur, officials said.

The accused has been identified as Abdul Satar from Ponara Soni, who was involved in multiple terror cases, working as an active guide and facilitator for terrorist organisations until his arrest, they added. Several FIRs were registered against him at the Basantgarh police station, police said.