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Smart City projects...

promoting investment, mitigating the effects of climate change and generating revenue for local services, he said.

Cities are not just geographical spaces but also centers of economic activities and cultural prosperity. The city provides opportunities to the citizens and fulfills the aspirations of its residents, observed the Lt Governor.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, cleanliness drive has become a people's movement and its socio-cultural impact on the ground is heartening, the Lt Governor observed.

Sinha appealed to the people of J&K to join the efforts to beautify their cities and also take advantage of facilities extended by the Municipal Corporations.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the reforms introduced for the holistic development of J&K and the revolutionary steps taken to transform the Agriculture sector and business activities.

'The era of discrimination between the regions has gone. We believe in equitable development and equal opportunity for all', said the Lt Governor.

It is our resolve to make J&K corruption-free. The Public Services Guarantee Act will be implemented in letter and spirit for ensuring public services to citizens, he added.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, JMC, while speaking on the occasion congratulated the business enterprises and other stakeholders on upgradation work of Transport Nagar.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary spoke on transforming Jammu City into one of the best cities of the country in terms of sanitation, amenities, and tourism development. Many new projects will be completed soon, he added.

Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department shared the details of various projects designated for the development of Transport Nagar.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Additional CEO- Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority (JMRDA); Baldev Singh Billawaria, Deputy Mayor, JMC; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Rahul Yadav, Commissioner JMC; Pankaj Magotra, VC, JDA; ULB members; officers of UT administration and JMRDA; representatives of business community and transport associations and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

Man opens fire...

said. A villager immediately fired shots in the air from his country-made gun, the sources said.

Following the incident, CRPF personnel rushed to the village and conducted a search in and around the house but found nothing, they said.

A villager, Ranjeet Tara, said the girl was preparing food and she came out saying that someone entered her house.

One villager Koushal fired in the air and the intruder fled, he said, adding that it appeared that the suspect escaped from the back side of the house.

Security has been beefed up in the area, the sources said.

Last week, terrorists had targeted Dhangri village in Rajouri killing seven people and injuring many others.

Winter vacations in...

prevailing inclement weather conditions in the Jammu division."

"In supersession to order No. 719 DSEJ of 2023 dated January 9, 2023, the winter vacations of Government/Private recognized schools functioning in Summer Zones of Jammu Division are further extended till January 15, 2023 due to prevailing inclement weather conditions," read an order issued by Director School Education, Jammu.

However, it added, staff and students involved in preparation for Republic Day celebrations shall continue the rehearsal as scheduled.

"Any laxity in this regard from any Govt/Private School shall be viewed seriously and dealt under rules," it warned.

Earlier, the schools were scheduled to open on January 7, 2023.

CRPF to provide...

village defence guards so that they can act as a line of defence in case of a terrorist attack. The modalities of this new proposal are still being planned," a senior CRPF officer said.

The volunteers will also be trained in basic physical combat exercise, if required, he said.

The development comes following the twin terror attacks in Dhangri village in Rajouri district last week, in which seven people, including two children, were killed and 11 others injured.

A high-level panel of security and administration officials have also decided to deploy 18 fresh companies of the CRPF, comprising about 1,800 personnel, in Rajouri and Poonch for strengthening the security grid following this attack.

The force, as per the officer, may also be asked to render a variety of internal security duties in the Jammu region keeping in mind the emerging terror challenges and the much-anticipated elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which was bifurcated into Union territories following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

The J and K administration has asked the VDGs to remain vigilant in view of the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, amid fears that terrorists may disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the Jammu region, officials said.

VDGs have also been activated along the India-Pakistan International Border (IB) in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts, they said.

VDGs asked to...

by anti-national elements, the officials said.

They said the VDGs have been activated in many areas of the Jammu region and fresh weapons and ammunition have been provided to them.

In a briefing session in Kishtwar district, VDGs were directed to ensure surveillance and domination in their respective areas by way of patrolling in consultation and coordination with special police pickets, the officials said.

They were asked to ensure that the areas remain peaceful and effectively thwart the evil designs of anti-social and anti-national elements, the officials added.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has started reissuing weapons to the VDGs, earlier known as Village Defence Committees (VDCs), following the Dhangri incident.

Over 2,000 CRPF personnel have been deployed for security of minority places in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, the officials said.

Meanwhile, security forces continued their search operations in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts for second consecutive day on Monday to clear the region of over ground workers (OGWs) and militants, officials said.

In several areas in Kishtwar and Doda, house-to-house searches were conducted, they said. A search operation in Rajouri district has been going on for the past seven days to trace the terrorists involved in the Dhangri attack, the officials said.

Decorate all offices...

made on evaluating the performance of the individual. He asked for felicitation of all the public or social figures that have made remarkable contributions for making the lives of people better.

CRIME REPORT

One dies, 7 injured in separate road accidents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: One person was killed while seven others got injured in two separate road accidents in Budgam district on Monday.

As per details, a Tata mobile carrying dry grass skidded at Baji Pathri Charar Sharif due to slippery road, due to which driver Kursheed Ahmed, a resident of Ganderbal was killed while his father Abdul Hameed got injured.

In another accident, a Tata Mobile driven by Bilal Ahmed Dar skidded at Kheri Gund Chadura resulting in injuries to six people traveling in it, who were identified as Shakeel Ahmad Dar, son of Mohd Qasim; Haroon, son of Shakeel Ahmad Dar; Zahoor Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Ahmad; Ishfaq Ahmad, son of Bashir Ahmad Dar; Farooq Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Ahmad and Ghulam Mohiuddin, son of Noor Mohd Dar. All injured were immediately taken to CHC Nogam from where doctors referred them to SMHS for further treatment.

Girl raped, blackmailed by making video

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nowabadi police has registered a case of rape on complaint of a girl wherein in she told that now she was being blackmailed for several days by making videos and raped repeatedly.

According to information, a complaint was lodged with police by a girl stating that she works in a house at Talab Tillo area and a youth namely Pawan Kumar from Kanachak, who also works there, has raped her and made her video. She told that



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

He stated that the themes like Amrit Kaal, Viksit J&K, Nisha Mukt Bharat, Bhay Mukt, Bhrashtachar Mukt Bharat, Swachh Bharat, Digital J&K, Women Empowerment, SHGs are few of the themes that may be highlighted during the celebrations. He told them to conjure similar other themes where J&K has made an outstanding contribution.

The Chief Secretary noted that J&K has made preeminent contributions in provisioning different public services like Land Passbooks, Amrit Sarovars, digitisation of services, e-office, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, PMEGP, DGII, Departmental Deliverables, Aspirational Panchayats, Sports etc. He declared that these should be publicized for the awareness of masses.

During the meeting the Chief Secretary also took stock of the readiness of all the concerned regarding the holding of this national day with fervour and enthusiasm. He asked all to prepare well in advance for the celebrations and wished them all best for the successful culmination of 74th National Republic Day.

Religious conversion a...

this. Don't convert court proceedings into other things. ... We are concerned for the entire state. If it is happening in your state, it is bad. If not, good. Do not see it as targeting one state. Don't bring politics into it and give it a political colour."

The top court said fraudulent religious conversion is a very serious matter and asked senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, to be physically present in the court.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta termed such conversions a matter related to national interest and said the government was taking it seriously.

Asserting that the purpose of charity should not be conversion, the top court had earlier reaffirmed that forced religious conversion is a "serious issue" and against the Constitution.

The court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking direction to the Centre and states to take tough steps to control fraudulent religious conversions.

Forced religious conversion may pose a danger to national security and impinge on the religious freedom of citizens, the top court had said recently and asked the Centre to step in and make sincere efforts to tackle the "very serious" issue.

The court had warned a "very difficult situation" will emerge if proselytisation through deception, allurement and intimidation is not stopped.

The Gujarat government had told the top court at an earlier hearing that freedom of religion does not include the right to convert others, and requested it to vacate a high court stay on the provision of a state law that mandates prior permission of the district magistrate for conversion through marriage.

Upadhyay has submitted in his petition that forced religious conversion is a nationwide problem which needs to be tackled immediately. "The injury caused to the citizens is extremely large because there is not even one district which is free of religious conversion by 'hook and crook', he claimed in the petition.

"Incidents are reported every week throughout the country where conversion is done by intimidating, threatening, deceivingly luring through gifts and monetary benefits and also by using black magic, superstition, miracles but Centre and States have not taken stringent steps to stop this menace," said the plea filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The plea has also sought directions to the Law Commission of India to prepare a report as well as a Bill to control religious conversion by intimidation and through monetary benefits. The matter will be heard next on February 7.

Rehman Rahi, Kashmir's...

demise was widely condoled in Kashmir with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha terming his death as "end of an era".

"Deeply saddened to learn of the passing away of Jnampith awardee Prof Rehman Rahi, one of the most influential poets in Kashmiri in recent times. His passing marks the end of an era. My sincere condolences to his family, friends and well-wishers," Sinha said in a tweet.

Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti aslo condoled Rahi's death.

"Saddened to hear about the sad demise of towering literary personality and Gyanpeeth Awardee Jnab Rehman Rahi sb. In his death, Kashmiri Literature and society has been left with a void that can never be filled. My condolences to the family," she tweeted.

"Rehman Rahi was one of the most outstanding figures in Kashmiri literature. His creative brilliance found expression in various genres of literature. His works reflect cultural and political vicissitudes of Kashmir. They'll continue to influence young bards and writers. Deep condolences," tweeted CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami.

Make in India...

"There is an old African proverb: 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'. We intend to go far and we want to do it together. We wish to create symbiotic relationships, where we can learn from each other," he said.

There have been mounting global concerns over China's military muscle flexing in the South China Sea, East China Sea and the Indo-Pacific.

Singh said "partnership and joint efforts" are the two keywords that differentiate India's defence industry cooperation with other nations. "India does not believe in a hierarchical conception of world order, where a few countries are considered superior to others."

Underlining that the 'make-in-India' programme encompasses make-for-the-world, the defence minister asserted that the self-reliance initiative is the beginning of a "new paradigm of partnership" with India's partner countries.

"Within the domain of defence research and development and manufacturing, it translates into an open offer to you all, for joint efforts and partnerships in defence R and D and production," he said.

"When we are procuring defence equipment from our valued partner nations, very often, they are sharing the technical know-how, setting up manufacturing plants in India, and working with our local firms for various sub-systems," Singh said.

He noted that it is India's endeavour to "transcend the relation of buyer and seller to that of a co-development and co-production model, irrespective of whether we are a buyer or a seller".

"I would like to emphasize that our national efforts towards 'Make in India' are neither isolationist, nor are they just meant for India alone," he said.

Showcasing the growth of India's defence manufacturing sector, Singh especially

now she was being continuously blackmailed and raped in the name of video. The police has registered a case and started investigation.

Drug peddlers attack police party, SHO Janipur injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Station House Officer Janipur got injured when he was attacked by drug peddlers during a raid.

According to information, Janipur police received information that some drug smugglers are engaged in supplying drugs near Janipur Park. Acting on information, SHO Vijay Kumar along with his team raided the spot. On seeing police, smugglers started running away from the spot. When two or three were caught, they entered into a scuffle with police in which SHO Vijay Kumar got injured and was immediately taken to hospital. A case has been registered in this context. It was told that raids were conducted till late night to nab the smugglers and it is believed that two or three smugglers will be caught at night.

Wife thrown out of house after 'Triple Talaq'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Satwari police has registered a case on complaint of a woman wherein it was alleged that she was thrown out of house by uttering Triple Talaq.

According to information, a complaint was lodged with police by a woman that her husband pronounced Talaq thrice and threw her out of the house. She told that she was also beaten up. Police has registered a case in this regard and started investigation.

Youth dies of fall

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A youth died after falling from a height in a religious place under Gharota

spoke about the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and the Light Utility Helicopter (LUH).

"Our large population and abundant skilled workforce has led to the creation of a thriving innovation ecosystem, led by start-ups in high technology areas. I believe that the Indian aerospace and defence manufacturing sector is well prepared to take up the future challenges and capitalise on emerging opportunities," he said.

He also noted that India's defence exports have grown by eight times in the last five years and now the country is exporting to more than 75 nations.

"India has been working towards enhancing its defence manufacturing capabilities, particularly in the emerging areas of drones, cyber tech, AI, radars and other equipment," Singh said.

"When we are exporting our defence equipment to our friendly nations, we offer our full support towards the capability development of the buyer through sharing of technology, training, co-production," he said.

Touching upon India's G-20 presidency, the defence minister said its endeavour is to build consensus within the grouping and shape the agenda for a "more secure, prosperous, sustainable and just world".

"The upcoming G-20 summit in India is taking place in the larger context of a major geopolitical crisis, food and energy security concerns, comparatively slower progress on Sustainable Development Goals, mounting public debt burdens, and urgent climate change related issues," he said.

Singh said India envisages the G-20 presidency as an occasion to showcase India to the world, the "3D's of India: Development, Democracy and Diversity."

The defence minister said the Aero India-2023 would be bigger than the last edition.

The Aero India-2021 had witnessed attendance of over 600 exhibitors physically and another 108 in virtual mode.

The defence minister also referred to last year's DefExpo.

"He asserted that the conclusion of 451 Memoranda of Understanding, Transfer of Technology agreements, product launches and orders to domestic businesses, worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore, etc attest to the success of the DefExpo," the defence ministry said in a statement.

Punjab Admn has...

Chief Secretary VK Janjua and flagged their resentment before them. The officers said that the procedure has not been followed while registering the case against Neelima.

Chugh said the AAP leaders have proved themselves to be