

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Govt working to...

Sinha said that efforts were being made to restore "permanent peace". "Success has been achieved to a great extent in this direction," he asserted and hoped that the government would continue achieving success as per the "expectations and aspirations" of the people of the country.

Drive to decongest...

The drive covered bazaars like Gumat, Raghunath Bazaar, City Chowk, Shalamar and Indira Chowk, where public and establishments were appealed not to hinder public passage by encroachment over pavements, footpaths and improper parking on roadsides.

The drive cleared the roads and footpaths of illegal rehrihs, hoardings, banners and other obstructions. 74 challans for wrong parking were issued and 2 truckloads of goods encroaching public space were confiscated. Additionally, AC outlets and gensets installed on the footpath were removed with instructions to the JMC to issue notices to their owners.

Ansuja Jamwal said that today's exercise was the beginning of rigorous drives in future and that regular efforts would be made to improve public movement in city bazaars and generate awareness. She reiterated the district administration's stance of prioritising sensitisation over punitive actions, emphasising that 'smooth movement of men and materials is pivotal for thriving businesses'.

The articles and goods confiscated by the Jammu Municipal Corporation during the drive can be claimed and retrieved by the proprietors after due procedures.

Situation in J&K...

He said the soldiers have shown maturity in a sensitive atmosphere, adding that "concrete efforts are on to establish peace and harmony in the state".

The Army is "fully ready and competent to deal with any situation" on the northern borders, he added.

"To develop our capability on the northern borders, we have taken a number of concrete steps. Through the provisions of emergency procurement, we have got a number of modern equipment, including arms and weapons with niche technology. Special attention has been paid to develop critical infrastructure in border areas and good progress has been made," General Pande said.

"Today, we pay tributes to those bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives for the country's security. The tales of their sacrifice and bravery will always inspire us. I would like to assure their family members that they are an important part of the armed forces family and their welfare is our priority," he said.

The Army chief pointed out that last year onwards, the Army Day parade is being held outside Delhi and expressed happiness that this year, Lucknow was chosen as its venue.

"The history of this city and region is full of tales of bravery of bravehearts, who had contributed in the freedom struggle. This programme is dedicated to the struggle and sacrifice of those soldiers," he said.

General Pande also said the efforts to make the Indian Army a more powerful ("prabal"), competent ("saksham") and alert ("tatpar") force will continue.

He said the Army has focused on force restructuring and optimisation, technology infusion, and making systems, processes and functions more effective.

The Army chief also mentioned other initiatives of the armed forces, such as the Agnipath scheme and women empowerment through posting women officers in operational theatres like Siachen.

General Pande concluded his address by saying the Army has established a position of trust for itself in every citizen's heart and called upon all personnel to rededicate themselves to "Naam, Namak, Nishaan" and the service of the nation.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and other senior military personnel attended the parade.

The Army Day celebrations commenced with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Smritika War memorial here to honour the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

Twenty-three foreign service attaches from 19 countries attended the parade, which was also witnessed by veterans, NCC cadets, school children, soldiers and their families.

Around 500 soldiers of the Indian Army were part of the parade.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the Army personnel on the occasion of Army Day.

"Greetings to the Army personnel, veterans and their families on Army Day! The Indian Army has a long tradition of exemplary bravery, guarding the nation's borders with utmost dedication. Their patriotism remains a great source of inspiration for all citizens," Murmu said on X.

"On Army Day, we honour the extraordinary courage, unwavering commitment and sacrifices of our Army personnel. Their relentless dedication in protecting our nation and upholding our sovereignty is a testament to their bravery. They are pillars of strength and resilience," Modi said on the microblogging platform.

The Army Day is celebrated on January 15 every year to commemorate the achievements of the first Indian commander-in-chief of the Army, General (later Field Marshal) K M Cariappa.

On this day in 1949, General Cariappa, who led the Indian forces to victory in the 1947 war, took over the command of the Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British commander-in-chief.

ED arrests former...

department against the issuance of permits for tree felling and for transfer/posting in the department, among other allegations.

Dharamsot has been a five-time MLA and was also arrested by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau last year in a case linked to alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

He has represented the Nabha assembly seat while Giljhan has been an MLA from the Umar seat in Hoshiarpur district.

The money laundering case, filed under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, stems from an FIR of the Punjab Vigilance Bureau into alleged irregularities in the forest department and allegations of taking bribes by the ministers and officers concerned for issuing permits for felling of Khair trees, transfer/posting in the department, issuance of NOC from the department and purchase of tree guards.

CS for laying...

to achieve the goal of round the year 'Nal se Jal' for each household. He stressed on carrying out the much requisite feasibility studies to make the schemes successful in providing quality water to the its consumers.

He called upon the department to make provision for senior officers to monitor the progress on each scheme and see that it completes meeting all the essential guidelines set for the water supply scheme. He even advised for earmarking a proportion of works to be monitored by the concerned Chief Engineers especially those with having ground water source or requiring electromechanical works for their completion.

Dulloo also asked for enhancing the capacity of locals to carry out the testing of water supplied to them and operation of the allied schemes. He called for training as many locals as possible in the local technical institutions for keeping a pool of technically sound people in each village to look after their schemes. He impressed upon enhancing the number of 'Nal Jal Mitras' for accelerating the frequency of testing and better operation of the schemes.

He also called for making provisions for operation and maintenance of the schemes wherever necessary for the panchayats to be declared as 'Har Ghar Nal se Jal' certified. He called for increasing the IBC activities to generate awareness among the masses besides taking measures for including 'water conservation' in the school curriculum here as desired by the PM.

The ACS, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra informed the meeting about the measures being taken to pace up the progress on this mission. He gave out that till date 76% of the households have been provided with tap connections comprising of 14,23,305 households across the districts of J&K. He further apprised that around 3,27,215 households have been added in the current financial year only.

Regarding the execution of works the ACS revealed that the progress is satisfactory as 6478 (98%) of works already stands allotted and 5806 (88%) works started on ground and 1571 works completed by the executing agencies.

As far as water quality monitoring is concerned it was said that around 204957 tests had been conducted in different areas of the UT in 98 labs established across it. It was also given out that 7530 Free Testing Kits (FTKs) have been distributed in villages where more than 33000 women have been trained to use these kits properly.

Moreover it was highlighted that out of 22 district labs, 10 have been accredited

by NABL and rest are going to get the accreditation soon. To ensure quality it was reported that third party monitoring, roping in of NGOs as ISAs besides capacity building of Pani Samities is ensured across the panchayats of the UT. It was also revealed that all the water testing labs at tehsil/Subdivision level are being inspected by Food & Drug Controller to ascertain their readiness and fitness for the task they had been established.

The committee later gave an in principle approval to the carrying out of works on 79 schemes across the UT to include the left out 57837 households across different districts of the UT as per the guidelines of this mission besides taking other decision for smooth advancement of this national mission.

Ram 'Bhajan' sung...

"Our LG is a Hindu but he does not discriminate against us on the basis of religion while carrying out development work. Our Imam Hussain has also taught us that the followers of the Prophet love the country in which they live. Loving one's country is part of being faithful," she said.

"The LG is going from place to place to solve the problems of people and Modi ji is giving priority to Jammu and Kashmir. It is also our duty to cooperate with them because I believe that Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians are brothers," she said. The Ram temple consecration ceremony will be held on January 22.

Attacks on ships...

Iranian-backed Yemen's Houthi rebels amid the Israel-Hamas conflict. "We have even seen some attacks in the vicinity of India. This is a matter of great concern to the international community. Obviously, it also has a direct bearing on India's energy and economic interests. This fraught situation is not to the benefit of any party and this must be clearly recognised," he said.

His remarks came on a day when a missile fired by Houthis struck a US-owned ship just off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden. A day earlier, Houthi fired an anti-ship cruise missile toward an American destroyer in the Red Sea, according to reports.

The US and the UK last week launched air strikes targeting the Houthi positions in Yemen.

India has been closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the Red Sea. The Indian Navy has already enhanced deployment of its frontline ships and surveillance aircraft for maritime security operations in view of the maritime environment in the critical sea lanes including the North and Central Arabian Sea.

Jaishankar, who is here as part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides, also said that both India and Iran are concerned about recent events in West Asia and emphasise the importance of preventing further escalation of violence and hostilities in the region.

He said the "deeply concerning" situation in Gaza was naturally a subject of discussion.

"The loss of civilian lives, especially that of women and children was our primary focus. There is a visible humanitarian crisis that needs to be addressed and the creation of sustainable humanitarian corridors is the need of the day," he said and welcomed the international community's efforts in that direction.

"India itself has delivered shipments of relief material to Gaza and contributed to the UNRWA," he added.

On the issue of Palestine, Jaishankar reiterated India's long standing support for a two-state solution, where the Palestinian people are able to live freely in an independent country within secure borders.

"I stressed on the need for all parties to avoid provocative and escalatory actions, and to facilitate movement towards dialogue and diplomacy," he added.

Kashmir under grip...

has forecast mainly dry weather till January 21. 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Property of drug...

substances by the owner. Pertinently the said drug peddler is involved in Case FIR number 66/2023 of Police Station Qaimoh. This action reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area have hailed the initiative of Police with regard to the attachment of immovable property, which has been raised/used from illicit trafficking of narcotics by the drug peddler.

Kundan elected President Nagrai Literary Forum



Forum members posing for photograph after the elections.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A General Body Meeting of Nagrai Literary Forum was held at Sanskriti Bhavan, Roop Nagar, where elections were held in which Kundan Paras was unanimously elected as President, Dr. Ramesh Nirash as Vice-President, Vijay Wali as Patron, Ashok Koul as Gen.

Secretary and P.K Raina as Publicity Secretary. Twenty members of the forum were present while several members participated telephonically.

Those who were present include P.L. Hatash, P.L. Swadeshi, Vijay Wali, Dr. Roshan Saraf, Ashok Koul Rahi, Rajinder Agosh,

Shyam Bihari, B.N.Hali, Ashok Gowhar, Kuldeep Swadeshi, Ramesh Suri, Soom Nath Sanam, P.K.Raina, M.K.Razdan, M.N.Gadroo, Ajay Bharti & Dr. Ramesh Razdan, who volunteered to the newly elected body resolved to resume the activities to promote culture and language.

Court awards life-imprisonment in murder case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Deepak Sethi on Monday awarded life-imprisonment to Gurbachan Singh S/o Jagga Ram R/o Kotli Meerdian Tehsil R.S. Pura Jammu who was facing trial for the last 13 years.

According to the police an FIR 44/2010 under section 307/452/34/RPC was registered on the complaint of one Parsino Devi w/o Darshan Lal. Parsino Devi gave the oral report that her husband namely Darshan Lal runs a shop of cycle repair and of barber at Rangpur Malana on the road side. Gurbachan and Ravi Kumar bear animosity towards her husband. She alongwith her son namely Raman Kumar went to the shop to give food to her husband and when she reached the shop then from behind two accused came from behind. They with criminal common intention entered into the shop and accused Gurbachan with darat and accused Ravi Kumar with mungli attacked her husband. She raised hue and cry and some people came on spot and two accused ran away from behind the shop. Thereafter the persons who had gathered

there took her husband to hospital R.S Pura.

During the investigation it was found that the deceased and the accused had good relationship in the mean while accused Gurbachan Singh was instigated by some one that his wife has illicit relationship with Darshan Lal and because of this enmity was created between accused Gurbachan Singh and deceased Darshan Lal. On 30.4.2011 armed with darat and mungli they entered inside the shop of Darshan Lal assaulted the deceased and grievously injured him. Because of the injuries sustained deceased died. Both the accused because of the enmity assaulted the deceased and killed him. The accused Gurbachan Singh along with accused Ravi Kumar with criminal common intention both of them assaulted the deceased. The accused Gurbachan was armed with darat and accused Ravi Kumar was armed with mungli (baseball) and both the accused with criminal intention to kill the deceased came on spot on the scooter and the scooter was parked in the lane by the accused. The accused entered the shop of

the deceased from behind and assaulted him and injured him grievously and the deceased died thereafter at GMC Jammu because of the injuries sustained.

Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Deepak Sethi after hearing APP Vikrant Sharma for the UT, observed that it is trite that life imprisonment is a rule and death sentence is an exception. In other words, death sentences must be imposed only when life imprisonment appears to be an altogether adequate punishment and only when the accused falls under the rarest to rare category. Having regard to the totality of circumstances, I am of the considered opinion that imprisonment for life is an adequate punishment for the convict as the facts of the case do not fall in the category of rarest of rare case.

It is ordered that for commission of offence u/s 302 RPC, the convict has to undergo simple imprisonment for life, subject to the confirmation of the conviction and sentence by the High Court and for commission of offence u/s 449 RPC the convict shall undergo imprisonment for 10 years. Both these sentences shall run concurrently.

CEO ERA reviews World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA), Dr. Syed Shehrish Asgar, on Monday exhorted upon the officers to rigorously identify and remove the impediments hindering the progress of various vital works being executed under World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

She issued these directions while chairing a meeting held to review progress on ongoing works being executed under World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

Dr. Shehrish was informed that as on date 174 sub-projects, out of the total of 213, taken up for execution under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi flood Recovery Project have already been completed while as work on remaining 39 sub-projects is in progress. Besides, an expenditure of Rs 1352 crore has been incurred on the project till date.

While reviewing progress on under execution 39 sub-projects of JTFRP, Chief Executive Officer was



CEO ERA, Dr. Syed Shehrish Asgar chairing a meeting.

informed that progress on upgradation of 47 dewatering stations in Srinagar city is at advanced stage with work already completed on 40 stations while as work on remaining 7 stations will be completed by March, 2024.

CEO directed the concerned nodal officers to submit progress report regarding work progress after every 20 days saying that no further delays in completion of the significant urban flood management project will be tolerated.

Nodal officer for R&B projects, while divulging the details of sub-projects being executed under the component of critical infrastructure, informed that work on construction of additional 160 bedded hospital block at Bone and Joints hospital

Barzulla, Srinagar, is at the advanced stage with around 90% work completed on civil component of the sub-project. He added that an amount of Rs 59.36 crore has been spent on the critical healthcare project.

He also informed that work on construction of additional block at GDC, Bemina, is nearing completion and is expected to be completed by March, 2024. Besides, work on construction of Emergency Operations Centre at Ompura Budgam is also in full swing with work on installation of HVAC and fire fighting system underway.

Nodal Officer, for construction of BaLa school buildings in Jammu division, informed that work on all school buildings except the

one at Ramnagar, Udhampur, has been completed.

CEO directed that work on the remaining school building be completed at an earliest. She asked the concerned nodal officers to ensure that all impediments affecting progress of work on the sub-projects be timely resolved.

While giving details of the projects being executed by J&KERA as PIU (project implementation unit), CEO was informed that work on Hamray-Sultanpora, has been completed and project is being handed over to R&B within one week. Besides, work on construction of Bonpora-Padshahi Bagh Storm water drainage project has also been completed except for installation of customised sluice gate which will be installed within months time. It was also informed that work on other road projects namely Devi Mai Ohli-Mandir, Gulati-Shahdra Sharief and Waghama Bijbehra is in full swing and will be completed in next working season.

CEO was also briefed about the progress achieved by J&KERA on the two vital river morphological studies of 'Tawi Basin and Jhelum

basin being undertaken under the World Bank funded JTFRP. She asked the concerned officers that the studies be fine tuned to the best satisfaction of the concerned line departments.

Dr. Shehrish impressed upon all the officers of J&KERA to continue working in mission mode while complying with all quality parameters and timelines to ensure that all the sub-projects taken up for execution under JTFRP are completed within the stipulated time-frame and project objectives of JTFRP are achieved to the fullest.

Among others the meeting was attended by Gureharan Singh, Director, Technical, JTFRP, Dr. Sajad Wani, Chief Accounts Officer, J&KERA/JTFRP, Ashok Khokar, Project Manager, Transport, J&KERA, Jammu, Pooja Wazir, Deputy Project Manager, Transport, Jammu, Sushil Kumar, Project Manager, Transport, JKERA, Kashmir, Asgar Watali, Deputy Project Manager, J&KERA Transport, Feroz Ahmad, Deputy Project Manager, J&KERA Transport, Arshid Hussain, Deputy Project Manager, Baiza Rafeeq Deputy Project Manager, J&KERA Transport and other senior officers of J&KERA and JTFRP.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Basohli, Mahanpur, Saman Jandrota, Bani, Bhoond, Maksha, Chalog, Dhaggar, Sewa, Martha-Nagrota, Duggan and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 18 from 10 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Sarore, Jakh, Jogpur, Raika, Industry, Patli and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 18 from 10 am to 2 pm.