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Unmatched gallantry of...

Atma-Nirbhar Jammu Kashmir. But, we will not forget and we will not forgive those behind breeding terrorists. We are determined to completely dismantle their terror ecosystem", the Lt Governor asserted.

Later, the Lt Governor released a 'Special Cover' and unveiled the mural of Ashok Chakra Awardee, Late ASI Babu Ram of J&K Police in presence of his family members.

Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Lt Gen YK Joshi, GOC-in-C Northern Command; Dilbag Singh, DGP J&K; Lt Gen PN Ananthanarayanan, GOC Rising Star Corps; Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, GOC White Knight Corps; Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raghav Langer; Maj Gen Neeraj Gosain, GOC Tiger Division who were present on the occasion also laid wreath and paid homage to bravehearts.

Several Army veterans including Hon Capt Bana Singh PVC, Lt Col Rishma Sarin wife of Late Major Mohit Sharma and other military and civil dignitaries also paid homage to bravehearts.

J&K Govt issues...

offices and educational institutions of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during the calendar year-2022," the government order issued by Rohit Sharma Additional Secretary, GAD reads.

The 28 holidays to be observed across UT include Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday (9th January), Republic Day (26th January), Mahashivratri (1st March), Shab-i-Miraj (1st March), Nauroz (21st March), 1st Navratri (2nd April), Ramanavami (10th April), Baisakhi (14th April), Birthday of Dr B. R. Ambedkar (14th April), Juma-tul-Vida (29th April), Shab-e-Qadr (29th April), Eid-ul-Fitr (3rd May), Buddha Purnima (16th May), Guru Hargobind Ji's Birthday (15th June), Eid-ul-Azha (10th & 11th July), Ashoora (8th August), Independence Day (15th August), Janmashtami (19th August), Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday (2nd October), Mahanavami (4th October), Dussehra (5th October), Eid-i-Milad-u-Nabi (SAW) (8th October), Friday following Eid-i-Milad-u-Nabi (SAW) (14th October), Diwali (24th October), Accession Day (26th October), Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday (8th November), Christmas Day (25th December) and Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday (29th December).

According to the list, there are four provincial holidays for Kashmir province and three for Jammu province while eight local holidays in Jammu districts and four restricted holidays.

PSB strike: Banking...

like cash withdrawals, cheque clearances and loan approvals came to a standstill due to bank branches not being operational.

Banking operations are likely to be impacted on Friday as well.

The pan-India strike was called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) to protest against the government's decision to privatise two more state-run lenders this fiscal.

UFBU is an umbrella body of nine unions, including All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) and National Organisation of Bank Workers (NOBW).

The government had in Budget 2021-22 announced its intent to take up privatisation of two PSBs during the year.

Shutters of many branches of PSBs like State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank and Bank of India were down on Thursday with a message informing customers about the strike.

Apart from PSBs, some employees from old generation private sector banks and regional rural banks also joined the strike, unions said.

Bank employees right from sweepers to senior executives in scale 5 are observing the two-day strike on December 16 and 17, they said.

According to AIBEA General Secretary C H Venkatachalam, about 20.4 lakh cheques worth Rs 18,600 crore could not be transacted on Thursday.

Public sector lenders, including SBI, had earlier informed customers that services in their branches might be affected due to the strike.

"PSBs act as catalysts in the economic development of our nation in general and particularly for the underprivileged sections of the society and backward regions of the country.

"Nationalised banks have played a major role in the development of agriculture, small trade, small business, SSI, transport and in upliftment of weaker sections of the society," Venkatachalam said.

AIBOC General Secretary Soumya Dutta said it is unfortunate that operations of over 1 lakh branches of banks and regional rural banks have been impacted due to the strike because of the government's attitude.

Venkatachalam said many political parties including Congress, DMK, CPI, CPM, TMC, NCP and Shiv Sena have extended their support to the strike.

UFBU's Convenor (Maharashtra) Devidas Tuljapurkar said employee unions from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have also supported the strike.

Around 60,000 PSB staffers in Maharashtra joined the strike.

In Mumbai, approximately 5,000 bank employees held a protest at Azad Maidan, he said.

UFBU's Convenor (West Bengal) Goutam Niyogi claimed the strike in the state was total.

Besides the two-day strike, a series of other agitations will be carried out if the government does not give up the idea of privatising PSBs, AIBOC General Secretary Sanjay Das said.

Das said the move to privatise state-owned lenders will hurt the priority sectors of the economy as well as credit flow to self-help groups and the rural economy.

According to him, 70 per cent of the country's total deposits are with PSBs and handing them over to private capital will put the common man's money at risk.

A section of bank employees, representing the All India Bank Employees Union, wore black badges and staged a protest in Chennai, raising slogans against the Centre's move.

In Tamil Nadu, the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) threw its weight behind the strike by offering its 'total support' to the protest.

The DMK was extending its support to the strike after union representatives

apprised party president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on the just reasons behind the agitation, party General Secretary Durai Murugan had said.

In Rajasthan, 25,000 officers and employees working in more than 4,000 branches of PSBs participated in the strike, UFBU's state convenor said.

Bank employees held a demonstration outside the SBI office near Ambedkar circle in Jaipur.

In the Union Budget presented in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the privatisation of two PSBs as part of the Centre's disinvestment plan.

To facilitate privatisation, the government has listed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, for introduction and passage during the current session of Parliament.

The government has already privatised IDBI Bank by selling its majority stake in the lender to LIC in 2019 and merged 14 public sector banks in the past four years.

Govt permits change...

permission is to be granted within 30 days of filing of the application with a provision of deemed approval if no decisions are taken.

The powers have been delegated to the District Collector to grant permission for land up to 12 1/2 standard acres against a fee of 5 per cent of the market value of the land notified under the Stamps Act.

The regulations empower the applicant to commence the non agriculture use on the permitted land within one year from the date of the order issued by the District Collector in this behalf. However, the land can be diverted and used only for the purpose specified in the permission.

Moreover, the regulations provide exemption from seeking the permission in cases of conversion for construction of residential house or farm-related buildings and storages with a ceiling of 400 Sq. mtrs (17 Marla).

The Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Tehsildar concerned have been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of these regulations within their respective areas of jurisdiction. Besides, it will be the duty of every Agriculture Extension Officer to report cases of violation to the revenue officers and any neglect on this account can attract disciplinary action for dereliction of duty.

The decision is aimed at ensuring production of sufficient quantity of food grains, besides promoting orderly growth of industrial and services sector in this Union territory and creation of employment.

By this, the UT will be at par with the leading States of the country in allowing the conversion and reducing compliance burden under Business Reforms Action Plan (Ease of Doing Business) in an investor friendly eco-system.

AC approves establishment...

up of new medical and higher education institutions in private sector is a part of the new Industrial Policy. The identified will be allotted transparently as per the J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy.

The Administrative Council also gave nod to the construction of additional block of Indira Gandhi Government Dental College, Jammu at an estimated cost of Rs. 44.46 crore.

The construction of the new block will cater to the increased patient load by creating infrastructure for several clinical departments including hospital administration, emergency section, operation theatre, wards, prosthodontics & dental material department, pedodontics department, oral pathology, dental histology department, and community dentistry department.

The enhanced infrastructure will also remove the deficiency pointed out by the team of Dental Council of India (DCI) during their visit to college in terms of insufficient building infrastructure for starting of PG Courses in the next session.

The decision is aimed at providing quality dental services to the public and introducing post graduate courses in dental care. It will also support the up-gradation of vital Dental care services on modern grounds.

NIA conducts searches...

worker of a proscribed terrorist organisation and has been providing logistical and material support to terrorists, the NIA official said, adding that further investigation in the case continues.

2 LeT terrorists...

taken into case records for further investigation.

Police have registered case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. " People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any", the spokesperson added. Inspector General of Police Kashmir appreciated role of police and security forces for evacuation of civilians especially during night hours who were trapped inside cordon and for conducting successful operation without any collateral damage.

Reshuffle in J&K...

transferred and posted as SSP Udhampur vice Sargun Shukla, IPS, who has been posted as SO to IGP Technical Services.

Rakesh Balwal, IPS, awaiting orders of posting, has been posted as SSP Srinagar vice Sandeep Choudhary, IPS, who has been posted as SSP Cyber Crime Investigation Center for Excellence (CICE).

Abhishek Mahajan, IPS, awaiting orders of posting has been posted as SP Samba; Sheema Nabi Qasba IPS, SP Rajouri has been transferred and posted as SP (Tech), CID HQs vice Lakshya Sharma, who has been posted as SP South, Srinagar.

Mohita Sharma, IPS, SP North Jammu, has been transferred and posted as SP Ramban; Zahid Nasim Manhas, Commandant 1st Border Bn Jammu has been transferred and posted as SSP CID HQs J&K vice Mohd Aslam, who has been posted SSP Rajouri.

Rakesh Kumar Sharma, SSP Samba has been transferred and posted as Commandant IR-22nd Bn; Muntaz Ahmed, SSP Doda has been transferred and posted as Commandant 1st Border Bn Jammu; Rohit Baskotra, SP CID, SB Jammu has been transferred and posted as SP Poonch; Arun Gupta, SP CICE, has been transferred and posted as SP CID, SB Jammu; Liaqat Ali, Addl. SP Poonch has been transferred and posted as SP APCR Kashmir; Rakesh Kumar, SO to ADGP, Traffic J&K has been transferred and shall await further posting in PHQ.

nath, one Tikka, one Mangalsutra, one pair of ear-rings, One Ring, one pair of Silver Payal worth more than Rs 2 lakh. On this, FIR no 226/2021 under sections 457, 380 of IPC was registered at Police Station Reasi and investigation initiated.

Police team swung into action and suspects were rounded up. With the help of CCTV footage & enquiries, a prime suspect was zeroed in. During investigations it came to fore that the suspect was at Seela, Reasi on the day of crime. After hectic efforts, he was identified as Kewal Singh, son of Kaka Ram, resident of Gadh, District Reasi. Team of Police Station Reasi started search for the accused who continuously evaded the arrest by changing his locations. On night of December 15, 2021 Police team raided a spot and nabbed him. During sustained questioning, the accused confessed his crime. On his disclosure, police team recovered stolen Gold & Silver items worth approximately Rs 2.04 Lakh. Further investigation in the case is going on to unearth his links in other theft cases.

Tourist igloo hut gutted at Bhadarwah

STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Tourism property worth lakhs was reduced to ashes when an igloo hut located at famous tourist resort at Khellani area caught fire in mysterious circumstances on Thursday afternoon.

According to reports, one of the 5 igloo huts built by Bhadarwah Development Authority.



(BDA) at Khellani tourist resort, 15 Km from Bhadarwah town caught fire and within an hour, entire PVC structure was reduced to ashes. No one was injured in fire incident although locals tried to extinguish fire as fire tenders could not reach spot.

When contacted, CEO BDA Navdeep Wazir said that after witnessing smoke from one of igloos at Khellani tourist resort, employees immediately rushed to the spot and along with locals tried to extinguish fire. "It seems that fire was caused due to short-circuit inside the igloo. We are going to lodge an FIR to get the matter investigated," he told.

Rs 11,900 fine recovered from SoPs violators in Ramban

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across

Sanjay Kumar Bhagat, SO to IGP Technical Services has been transferred and posted as Commandant Women Battalion Kashmir; Abdul Qayoom, Addl. SP Bhaderwah has been transferred and posted as SP Doda; Rajinder Kumar Katoch, Commandant IR-22nd Bn has been transferred and posted as SO to DIG, JKS Range; Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, Dy. Commandant IR-11th Bn has been transferred and posted as SP Traffic City Srinagar; Sajad Ahmad Shah, SP South, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Dy. Commandant, IR-11th Bn; Irsah Hussain Rather, SP Hazratbal, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP Handwara vice Mashkoor Ahmed Zargar, who has been posted as SP Hazratbal, Srinagar.

Pushkar Nath Tikoo, Dy. Commandant 111-5th Bn has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP CID (CI), Jammu vice Kulbir Chand Handa, who has been posted as SP North, Jammu.

Modi to address...

has launched multiple schemes and initiatives to address the issues of dilapidated urban infrastructure and lack of amenities.

A special focus of these efforts has been the state of Uttar Pradesh, which has witnessed tremendous progress and transformation of the urban landscape, especially in the last five years, the PMO said.

An exhibition is also being organised from December 17 to 19 to showcase the key achievements of the government of India and government of Uttar Pradesh in the sphere of urban development.

Bhalla appointed Working...

Bhalla had joined the Congress as block president of the Youth Congress in 1979. He remained active in student politics before joining the mainstream party.

He became MLA in 2002 when he won the election from his home constituency of Gandhi Nagar. He served as minister in the PDP-Congress coalition Government. In 2008 elections also, he retained his seat. He is known for accelerating developmental work in his constituency as he has art to manage developmental funds for this area.

133 fresh COVID...

Jammu and Kashmir stands at 1,435. So far, 3,33,461 people have recovered from the viral disease, the officials said.

There are 50 mucormycosis (black fungus) cases in the union territory. No fresh case has been reported since last evening, they said.

BJP creating new...

a party convention in Bandipora district in north Kashmir.

He said District Development Council elections were announced with the aim to break the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD).

"They thought either the alliance will break over seat-sharing or it will lose elections. Neither of the two happened. In fact, the alliance won the maximum number of seats. It proved that people from Kashmir and Jammu were not with the decision taken in August 2019.

Then some alliance constituents were separated from it on one pretext of the other. Some way or the other, they want to prove that people are with the decision of August 5," the NC leader said.

He claimed that the efforts of the BJP are now focussed on showing to the world, through the legislative assembly, that the decisions of August 5, 2019, are acceptable to people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In 2000, J-K Assembly passed an important resolution. By virtue of that resolution, J-K Assembly had sought restoration of internal autonomy. That resolution is still part of the assembly record. Nothing has come to change that. Just like a resolution was passed in Parliament with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. Whenever there is talk about J-K, the members of Parliament say entire Jammu and Kashmir belongs to India and it is the job of the government to implement the resolution. On the same lines, the resolution of Assembly is binding on all governments," Abdullah said.

He said the BJP is actively pursuing the resolution route to erase the previous resolution passed by the assembly 21 years ago.

"They know our case in the Supreme Court is strong. Had our case been weak, the hearings would have been held much earlier. That's why they want to pass the resolution in the assembly," he added.

DB appreciates AG...

Pankaj Mithal took on record the four compilations filed by Advocate General in the open court. The Advocate General in the open court submitted that message is very loud from the Government that there shall be no delay in grant of prosecution sanctions in corruption cases and the message is also very clear from the top echelons of the Government that no tainted person shall be assigned the sensitive/prime positions. The Division Bench after going through four compilations and considering the submissions made by Advocate General D C Raina in the open court observed, "We appreciate the efforts put in by the office of the Advocate General in collecting and compiling all the above information within the short span of time and to place it before the Court".

The Division Bench further observed that Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed with Advocates Rahul Raina and Supriya Chouhan appearing for petitioners have also been provided with the set of above four compilations have prayed for and is allowed a month's time to go through the above reports and to