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LG exhorts people...

Dr. Arthur Neve, and threw light on his life. Dr. Arthur served the people of J&K for three decades, by establishing this Church as well as saving many lives as a doctor, he added.

The Lt Governor also extended his warm wishes to the people for the upcoming Christmas festival.

On the eve of Christmas, when we remember Jesus Christ, let us also reiterate our strong resolve to follow the path of truth, non-violence and universal brotherhood. Every person should sincerely play their part in promoting harmony in society, the Lt Governor said.

Special prayers were recited to mark the day, while a documentary on the history and restoration of the church was also showcased on the occasion.

The Christian community of Srinagar has expressed happiness at the government's initiative to renovate and reopen the Church ahead of Christmas.

St Luke's Church is a single-storey building constructed on a cruciform plan. The Church follows the Gothic Style of Architecture which is distinct from the other important monuments dotted in the landscape of Srinagar. Attached to the porch, there is a bell tower which is three-story in height, mounted by a high pitched CGI roof with dormer gables on each side.

Before the restoration works, the Church was lying in a dilapidated condition, with the structural members suffering major damage. The CGI roofing was completely damaged, the rainwater intrusion from the roof aggravated the decay of important components.

Initially, the structural integrity of the Church was analyzed by experts and the envisaged vision was to restore the Church in its original shape and character keeping intact the Architectural glory of the Church.

Two OGWs of...

was revealed that the arrested persons were in touch with LeT commanders and involved in providing logistics, shelter as well as transportation to the terrorists, he said.

An FIR has been registered at Khag police station and further investigation is under process, the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, security forces have recovered and destroyed an improvised explosive device (IED) in Pulwama district, police said.

Acting on a specific intelligence input that terrorists have planted an IED on the Newa-Srinagar road in Wanipora area of the south Kashmir district, a search operation was launched by the security forces, a police official said.

During the searches, the IED was found planted on the roadside, he said.

The IED weighed approx five kgs and was assembled in a container, the official said.

He said a bomb disposal team of police and army destroyed the IED on the spot through a controlled detonation.

A case has been registered and investigation taken up, the official said, adding, with the timely action, a "major tragedy has been averted".

HIGH ALERT IN...

Channi expressed fear that an attempt was being made to spread anarchy in Punjab ahead of the state assembly polls.

Our police is capable of maintaining law and order, he said. "But which agencies which are trying to disturb Punjab's peace will become clear as investigations are on," he said.

Earlier, he told reporters in Chandigarh, As elections near, some anti-national and anti-state forces are trying to commit such disgusting acts, and for this the government is alert and the people should also be alert, he said.

Deputy CM Randhawa, who is also the state's home minister, said some external forces could be trying to destabilise Punjab, and alluded to Pakistan. Punjab has been put on high alert, he said.

Several advocates complained of lax security arrangements at the complex, and Randhawa said more metal detectors will be installed there.

Asked if it could be a human bomb or a fidayeen suicide attack, he minister nothing can be ruled out. A DNA test will be conducted on the unidentified man found dead at the blast site, he added.

Complete ban on private coaching by Govt Teachers imposed in Baramulla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Education Officer Baramulla on Thursday issued an order directing for a blanket ban on private coaching by government across the north Kashmir's frontier district. "In light of the directions issued by the department from time to time, all the Teachers, Masters and Lecturers of the district are directed not to practice Private Tuition/Coaching in any private institution/coaching centre", reads an order.

"Moreover, Zonal Education Officers are also under instructions to maintain strict vigil over the violation to the said directions and prompt reporting to this office thereof", the order concludes.

"As such all the school Heads are advised to certify that none of their teacher/lecturer is unautho-

rized involved in private tuition. Any of the teaching Personal found violating the directives, strict action shall be taken against the official involved as it amounts to serious violation of the Government Employees Service Conduct Rules which prohibits on the practice of Tuition/Involvement in private tutorial in any capacity by Government School Teachers", reads the order.

"Moreover, Zonal Education Officers are also under instructions to maintain strict vigil over the violation to the said directions and prompt reporting to this office thereof", the order concludes.

"As such all the school Heads are advised to certify that none of their teacher/lecturer is unautho-

union territory, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 40 cases followed by 34 cases in Baramulla district.

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic was 4,518 as three fresh deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

There are 1,319 active cases in the union territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,34,456, the officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 27 were from the Jammu division and 105 from the Kashmir division of the

J&K Admn now eyeing lands, properties of people: Mehbooba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Thursday said the administration was eyeing the land and property of people of the union territory, having already "hurt" their dignity and special identity. She said the "theatres of peace" being played by the BJP-led Central government was proving to be counterproductive. "The arm twisting measures with heavy military presence on the ground, denying fundamental rights to people and enforcing a political ideology is what is being done in the name of ensuring peace in Jammu and

Kashmir," she said. "You cannot shut the mouth of a patient in pain and declare him stable. Measures of coercion can buy you some time but will not bring peace," she said. Peace cannot be enforced but established by understanding the core problem and addressing the grievances of the people, she said. "Reconciliation and dia-

logue is the only way to establish lasting peace," she said. She was addressing villagers in RS Pura who are affected due to the government plans to develop Gharana wetland. The former chief minister said that like villagers around Gharana wetland, farmers across Jammu and Kashmir were being forced out of their properties.

Dr Jitendra addresses 'Mission Karmayogi' workshop commemorating Good Governance Week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that the aim of "Mission Karmayogi" is to impart futuristic vision to civil services which could effectively determine the roadmap for next 25 years and shape the Century India of 2047. Addressing the Mission Karmayogi Workshop - The Path Ahead, commemorating Good Governance Week, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the imperative need of shift from "rule" to "role" in governance is essential to meet PM Narendra Modi's goal of New India and live up to its aspirations.

The Minister said, the era of generalists is over and this is far more relevant to Administration as we are entering the age of super-specialisation.

DM Leh suspends Chadar Trek 2022, other winter events

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: In view of the surging Covid threat, the Ladakh government on Thursday ordered suspension of Chadar Trek. Chadar trek is a famous adventure sport involving a 15-day trek covering 105 kilometers, mostly over the frozen Zanskar river. The Deputy Commissioner Leh Shrikant Suse issued notification for the suspension of Chadar Trek 2022, snow leopard sighting expedition and other winter tourism activities in Leh district.

He said, a civil service 'fit-for-purpose' and 'fit-for-future' requires a competency driven capacity building approach that focuses on imparting competencies critical to discharge its roles and that is exactly the main goal of Mission Karmayogi.

Dwelling on the theme of Integration, Dr Jitendra said that Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) has established a Mission - K a r m a y o g i Resource Cell at IIPA and is working in close coordination with National Capacity Building Commission.

LBSNAA and other central training institutions (CTIs).

Referring to Prime Minister's exhortation to the Civil Servants to be creative and constructive, Dr Jitendra said, to achieve his vision, it is imperative that the civil servants across the country have the right set of attitudes, skills and knowledge. He said, keeping this in mind, the Government has undertaken several initiatives including the launch of the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).

Omicron threat: Admn, Health Department join hands with NGOs to educate villagers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: In view of looming threat of new variant of Covid virus - Omicron and three confirmed cases of the same in Jammu, additional district administration Bhadarwah and Health department in collaboration with NGO started awareness cum free Medicare facilities campaign at Doorsteps in far off villages as precautionary measure. The awareness campaign in which besides educating the villagers about how to maintain Covid appropriate behavior in the given circumstances, a free medical camp was also organised at Songoi Panchayat, 19 km from Bhadarwah town on Thursday. A team of doctors from Health and Medical Education department along



Officials along with NGO members educating villagers.

with volunteers of Umar educational Trust led by ADC Bhadarwah Rakesh Kumar was primarily aimed at to discuss the ways and means to how to tackle the threat of new variant and to make villagers, especially females a brand ambassador of spreading the message of Covid appropriate behavior.

ADC Bhadarwah Rakesh

Kumar said "after reports 3 cases of Omicron variant in Jammu, we started a proactive approach to counter the new threat in advance and reach out to the most difficult and far off areas, we along with health department engaged an NGO and started awareness campaign beside distribution of free medicines especially immunity boosters."

Youth joins JKPC in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A large number of youth on Thursday joined Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference in Poonch in presence of party leader Er. Rydham Singh. Malkeet Singh, Ashish Kumar, Mohd Imran, Younis Khan and Mohd Imtiaz joined party and were welcomed by Er. Rydham Singh and assured them for full support from party side. Speaking on the occasion Er. Rydham said that his goal is only to strengthen the party at grass root level in Poonch.



JKPC leader Er. Rydham Singh along with new entrants.

He appealed to Poonch people to join the party in large for bright future of Jammu and Kashmir. Other party

workers who were present on the occasion were Ajaz Ahmed, Rayaz Ahmed and others.

Modi directed that states need to ensure that the eligible population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and to proceed to meet the target in a saturation mode.

India has recorded 236 cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus across 16 states and UTs so far out of which 104 people have recovered or migrated, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

Modi gave directions to officials during a high-level meeting to review the status of COVID-19 and Omicron, the new variant of concern (VOC), and said "we should be 'satark' (vigilant) and 'saavdhan' (cautious)".

The meeting was held to review the public health response measures for containment and management of COVID-19, strengthening of health infrastructure including availability of drugs, oxygen cylinders and concentrators, ventilators, PSA plants, ICU/oxygen supported beds, human resources, IT interventions and status of vaccination.

Officials briefed the prime minister about the emerging scenario globally driven by the new variant, with an overview of the surge in cases in countries having high vaccination coverage and presence of the Omicron variant, it said.

He was also apprised of the technical brief and priority actions recommended by the WHO in the context of Omicron.

A snapshot of the status of COVID-19 and Omicron in the country, including states reporting a higher number of cases, districts reporting higher positivity, and higher number of clusters, was presented to the prime minister, the PMO said.

The details of the Omicron cases reported in the country, including their travel history, vaccination status, and recovered status were also presented, it said.

Modi was briefed on the various actions taken since November 25, when the first advisory of the Union Health Ministry was shared with the states.

Revised travel advisory for international passengers, review meetings with states/union territories on COVID-19 public health response measures, ramping up vaccination, installation of oxygen supply equipment, etc., was also briefed to Modi.

The meeting was attended by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, NITI Aayog Member (Health), Home Secretary A K Bhalla, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, ICMR DG Balram Bhargava, Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijay Raghavan among with other senior officials.

Bhatindi IED recovery...

conspiracy of recruitment and plans to activate a significant number of radicalised youth in entire Valley to target security personnel and public places to wage a war against the government of India, the official said, adding that further investigation in the case continues.

Govt constitutes 6-member...

will be its Members. "The high level committee shall verify and scrutinize all documents on record, demarcation reports, maps and also perform necessary ground truth and submit exact position of 61 Kanals of the Auqaf land situated adjacent to the Circular Park at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Khasra No.73 of revenue village Rak Bahu, Tehsil Bahu, District Jammu," it added.

"The committee shall submit its report within a period of fifteen days from the date of issuance of the order," the order stated.

Bring elected Govt...

proved to be a bundle of lies.

"There is no accountability, no body listen to the public grievances and development works have stalled," Azad said adding that to get rid of this worse work culture in J&K there is dire need of elected Government. He also flayed J&K administration stating that the link between the public and bureaucracy is missing and people are being neglected by bureaucrats in UT administration, who have little concern for the poor and hapless people residing in remote and far-flung areas.

Talking to media persons, on delimitation commission draft, Azad said, "ST seats should be distributed equally in Jammu and Kashmir as ST population is nearly same in both regions.

As far as seats are concerned, two things must be taken into account in delimitation- one is population and the other is area. When it comes to area, there are three regions in Jammu- Central region, Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley. Chenab Valley is the biggest region. If you see district-wise, Kathua is the biggest followed by Udhampur. So, I hope that these 6 extra seats should be distributed in these three regions- Chenab Valley, Udhampur and Kathua."

Moreover, he expressed hope that the additional seats in Jammu would be concentrated in the Chenab Valley, Udhampur and Kathua. Meanwhile, it is notable that huge gatherings were witnessed during Azad's all rallies at Doda, Ganderbal, Bhadarwah and Gool.

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg and many other parts in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Thursday, even as there was a significant improvement in the minimum temperature across the valley, officials said.

Two to three inches of fresh snow accumulated at Gulmarg and its adjoining areas of Tangmarg and Babarwah, they said.

The officials said other areas which received fresh snowfall include Gurez, Razdan Pass, Sadhna Pass, Furkain Gali, Z-Gali and Shopian, and Zojilla Pass.

Some areas received rains, they said.

This is the first snowfall of this season's 'Chilla-i-Kalan', the 40-day harshest winter period which began on Tuesday.

Owing to the cloud cover, the minimum temperature improved across the valley on Wednesday night and settled above the freezing point at most places.

Srinagar recorded a low of 2.6 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, up from the previous night's minus 1.8 degrees Celsius.

The officials said for Palhgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of 0.3 degrees Celsius up from minus 5.2 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 2.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded 0.8 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.7 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg was the only place recorded place in the valley where the minimum stayed below the freezing point as it registered a low of minus 3.7 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office said there is possibility of light rain or snow at isolated places in J-K over the next 24 hours.

Another snow spell of greater intensity is most likely during December 26-27. Expect widespread light to moderate snow in plains of Kashmir, rain in Jammu and moderate snow at scattered places of Ladakh especially Kargil-Zanskar region," it said.