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Article 370 gave...

Mumbai and abroad to get education and lead a normal life, he added.
A befitting reply is being given to Pakistani terrorist organizations and their supporters. We have been successful in curbing terror financing & recruitment to great extent. We do not believe in buying peace. We believe in establishing peace and determined to eliminate the entire terror ecosystem, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor observed that a handful of people are trying to spread a false narrative and misguide the youth.

" These people must remember that Governance should be for the common man and not for the select few elites. We need to ask questions how families of terrorists were recruited in the government services earlier? How secessionists were given jobs earlier? Those responsible for such heinous act must introspect before raising questions on transparent and merit based recruitments happenings now," he added.

Replying to a question on the power scenario in Kashmir during his interaction with the media persons, the Lt Governor said that the government is providing 5 % more power to the valley than the previous year. I am taking day-to-day report on the power supply, the Lt Governor said.

Reiterating the government's commitment to achieving new milestones with respect to growth and inclusive development, the Lt Governor said, all the tools of governance are working for the welfare of people.

Appreciating JK News Today group for the sincere effort to depict the story of Kashmir, the Lt Governor said that the docu-drama captures the story of Kashmir and changes it has witnessed over the years.

The film shed lights on new dawn of development, people's aspirations and decisive action against Pakistan-sponsored terror ecosystem, added the Lt Governor.

Binoo Joshi, senior Journalist and Director & Producer of the 'Ehad-e-Kashmir', in her welcome address briefed the gathering about the docu-drama. We have tried to depict the situation of Kashmir in different time zones and present the statement of humanity through our endeavour, she added.

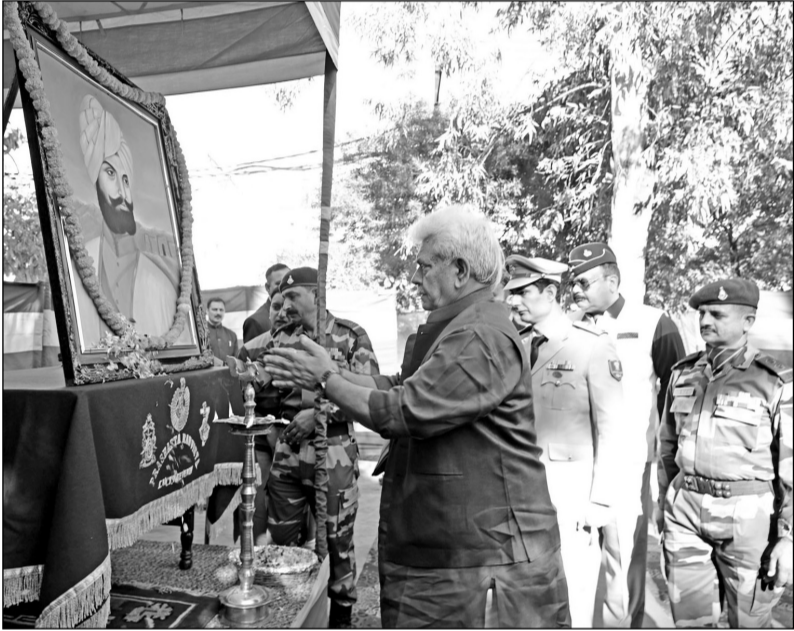
Arun Joshi, Editor-in-Chief, JK News Today, presented the vote of thanks and said that the efforts made in the last few years have significantly improved the situation in Jammu Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated Param Vir Chakra Awardee Captain Bana Singh, and the team of JK News Today.

Dilbag Singh, DGP; BR Sharma, former Chief Secretary; SP Vaid, former DGP; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; M.K Sinha, ADGP Hqtr; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; veteran and senior journalists attended the release event at Convention centre.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board; Devender Singh Rana, former Legislator, senior officials and prominent citizens from all walks of life were also present.

J&K marching into..



LG Manoj Sinha paying tributes to General Zorawar Singh on his Martyrdom Day.

Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust to commemorate the martyrdom day of the General.

"General Zorawar Singh had envisioned a strong and prosperous J-K, in which every citizen can live a life of dignity and self-respect. We are committed to creating a prosperous and inclusive society," Sinha said.

Speaking about the "transformational journey" of J-K, he said the Union Territory is marching into its "golden age" with core values of people-first and ideas and ideals of forefathers.

Sinha urged the people to discharge their responsibilities to accelerate the process of development.

Throwing light on the life and military campaigns of General Zorawar Singh, the Lt Governor said he was one of the greatest military commanders who made the country proud with his unparalleled bravery and military tactics.

"He is an icon for generations because his name evokes a strong feeling of love, reverence and sacrifice for the motherland. He will continue to inspire generations to come," Sinha said.

"It should be our collective endeavour to fully recognise General Zorawar Singh's contribution and significance in India's history," he said.

On the occasion, Ravinder Singh Jamwal, famous Sculptor and Anmol Bhardwaj specially-abled Power-lifter were also felicitated by the Lt Governor.

Devinder Singh Kaluria, Chairman, General Zorawar Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust; Diksha and Riya Kaluria, trustees of General Zorawar Singh Memorial Trust; Rajan Singh Happy, President Yuva Rajput Sabah; Ritu Singh; members of the trust and Yuva Rajput Sabha, and prominent citizens were present on the occasion at General Zorawar Singh Chowk.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vivek Gupta, DIG; Rahul Yadav, Commissioner, JMC; Major General Goverdhan Singh; Brigadier Vijay Sagar, retired and serving Army personnel were also present.

Action initiated against...

without sanctioned leaves during a district-wide drive held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom," an official spokesman said.

He said during the drive, senior officials from the administration inspected 58 offices and found 92 employees absent.

The deputy commissioner's office has issued directions to the officials concerned to initiate disciplinary action against employees found absent. The district heads of these offices have also been asked to explain the lack of supervision, the spokesman said.

The offices where surprises checks were conducted included Chief Education Office, Chief Horticultural Office, ACD, REW, DSHO, Fisheries, FCD Anantnag, ARTO, SD Hospital Kokernag, MC Bijbehara, SDM Bijbehara, Girls HSS Bijbehara, Tourism Pahalgam, BDO office Larnoo, TSO office Larnoo, BMO Office Larnoo and HSS Kokernag.

Qayoom said there is a zero-tolerance policy towards absenteeism and lack of punctuality.

He said that biometric attendance has been installed in most of the offices in the district. Any official flouting the norms will be taken to task, the deputy commissioner said, adding such surprise checks will continue in future.

Shah Rukh Khan...

pay his obeisance, the official said.

"The superstar was at the shrine around 11.30 pm and offered his prayers before returning back," the official said.

A brief video, purportedly showing the 57-year-old actor moving towards the Bhawan along with his personal staff and some policemen, is making rounds on the social media.

Earlier this month, Khan was photographed performing Umrah in Mecca after the schedule wrap of his film "Dunki" in Saudi Arabia.

The actor will next be seen in Yash Raj Films' actioner "Pathaan" alongside Deepika Padukone and John Abraham. The Siddharth Anand-directed movie is scheduled to be released on January 25.

Excess security cover...

before the administration issued an eviction notice to him.

The change in entitlements for former chief ministers in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories meant that they could not continue to live in the official residences provided to them in the erstwhile state.

56 foreign terrorists...

supporters as well," he said.

The DGP said that there is no need to fear. "It is a routine conspiracy of those who feel unhappy with peace and prosperity. We will finish all such remaining outfits involved in giving such threats," he said.

On security measures, Singh said, "We are taking all types of precautions. I hope everything will be alright everywhere. There will be no loophole in our security."

"There are people still in the training camps across the border. There are militants who are being made to infiltrate to this side. Forces on the border are vigilant and alert. If some sneak inside, they are neutralised," he said.

Asked about a link between Khalistanis and Kashmiri terrorists, Singh that, "Their mother is one, that is Pakistan."

"Whether it is terrorism in the name of Khalistan or Kashmir, the mother is one. It is she who is running it. We and Punjab Police work together whenever such instances come to the fore," he added.

Noting that dropping of weapons by drones is a big challenge, Singh said police have been able to solve some of the cases.

"IEDs and other things have been recovered and we are trying to effectively deal with it."

Fake driving licence...

cheated him and dishonesty took off Rs 35000 for making driving license and provided him a license issued by Transport officer Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh.

During further investigations it was found that Rajesh Kumar and Sham Lal along with Jarnail, son of Chain Singh, resident of Panasa and one Deepak Sharma, son of Puran Chand, resident of Purkhoo camp cheated the complainant by providing him a fake license and took money in lieu of it dishonesty.

Police team raided and arrested Deepak Kumar from Akhnoor Jammu and all other accused involved in the fraud from Reasi and further correspondence was made with transport authorities in Arunachal Pradesh.

Arrests were made by Team led Insp Vijay Sharma under the supervision of Iftkhar Ahmed DySP Hqtrs Reasi and Surjeet Bhagat ASP Reasi.

Sharing the details SSP Reasi Amit Gupta said that Further investigations in the case is going on and more arrests in the case cannot be ruled out.

UGC notifies curriculum...

four-year honours degree rather than a three-year course like the present. Honours degrees will also be offered in two categories -- honours and honours with research.

"A four-year UG Honours degree in the major discipline will be awarded to those who complete a four-year degree programme with 160 credits and have satisfied the credit requirement. Whereas students who secure 75 per cent marks and above in the first six semesters and wish to undertake research at the undergraduate level can choose a research stream in the fourth year," the notification said.

"They should do a research project or dissertation under the guidance of a faculty member of the university or college. The research project and dissertation will be in the major discipline. The students who secure 160 credits, including 12 credits from a research project and dissertation, will be awarded UG degree (honours with research)," it said.

Currently, students get an honours degree after completing three years of undergraduate programmes.

The Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes also allows multiple entry and exit options for students. If they leave before three years, they will be allowed to rejoin within three years of their exit and will have to complete their degree within a stipulated period of seven years.

"Students who opt to exit after completion of the first year and have secured 40 credits will be awarded a UG certificate if, in addition, they complete one vocational course of four credits during the summer vacation of the first year. These students are allowed to re-enter the degree programme within three years and complete the degree programme within the stipulated maximum period of seven years.

"Students who opt to exit after completion of the second year and have secured 80 credits will be awarded the UG diploma if, in addition, they complete one vocational course of four credits during the summer vacation of the second year.

"These students are allowed to re-enter within a period of three years and complete the degree programme within the maximum period of seven years," it said.

In the case of students pursuing a multidisciplinary programme, the credits to core courses will be distributed among broad disciplines such as life sciences, physical sciences, mathematical and computer sciences, data analysis, social sciences and humanities.

"For example, a student who opts for a UG program in life sciences will have the total credits to core courses distributed across botany, zoology and human biology disciplines. The degree will be awarded as BSc in Life Sciences for a 3-year programme and BSc (Honours) in Life Sciences or BSc (Honours with Research) for a 4-year programme without or with a research component respectively.

"The statutory bodies of the Universities and Colleges such as the Board of Studies and Academic Council will decide on the list of courses under major category and credit distribution for double major, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programmes," it said.

The commission has asked all higher education institutions to take the necessary steps to adopt the curriculum and credit framework for undergraduate programmes.

Contract for setting...

repeated warnings, the official said, asking not to be named.

The work on the smart toilets was awarded to Messrs Hare Vishnu Narayan and the work on the project started from Green belt park Gandhi Nagar on July 20.

"The contractor has adopted a causal approach towards the execution of the project despite several warnings and failed to meet the deadline set by authorities. The slow work and poor management of the contractor in crucial projects has prompted the authorities to take stern action," the official said.

The smart toilets, being setup at 15 different locations in Jammu city, were expected to be completed by Mareh next year.

The official said fresh tenders will be floated shortly to engage a new contractor to complete the project which include facilities for differently abled persons, friendly handrails, access ramp having anti-sliding feature, smart toilet app for citizens to locate toilets in the city and integration of smart toilet app with Jammu seva mobile app.

Never refer to...

should never comment on the Speaker in future saying that you (Speaker) can not interrupt. Did you understand what I said?" Birla said.

The issue appeared as Reddy began asking question on depreciation of rupee against dollar referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier remark when he was the chief minister of Gujarat that rupee was in the ICU (intensive care unit).

"Sir, you cannot interrupt," Reddy said as the Speaker objected to his comment and directed him to ask question only.

Birla, however, allowed Reddy to ask his question after he warned against making such comments against the Speaker.

Responding to Reddy's question, the finance minister said she will also give her reply in "weak Hindi" to the question asked by the Congress member in "weak Hindi".

The Congress member, while referring to Modi's remarks on value of rupee against dollar in the past, should have also referred to the economic indicators of that time, she said.

"Economy was certainly in the ICU then. India was kept in fragile five," she said.

India is the fastest growing economy today despite the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, she asserted.

"This is a matter of pride. But they are making fun of it, she said. "It's sad that they talk such things out of jealousy when our economy is doing well," she added.

LG chairs SMVDSB...

of the Shrine Board. Keep 24x7 monitoring on pilgrimage through RFID and CCTV cameras", said the Lt Governor.

To reform and enhance functions of various departments at the shrine, the Board approved implementation of Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP) software through TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) to provide an integrated digital

solution.

The Board approved the establishment of New Registration Counter at Railway Station, Katra to decongest the existing registration counters and provide convenience and comfort to the pilgrims. The Lt Governor also issued directions for building a state-of-the-art Registration centre.

The Board appreciated and decided to continue initiatives undertaken on a pilot basis during the Shardiya Navratras for the benefit of Divyangjan. The facilities will include provision of complimentary pony and battery car services, special priority darshans at sanctum sanctorum during all upcoming Navrataras.

The meeting also decided to invite doctors willing to serve the devotees at the Shrine on volunteer basis through advertisement and wide publicity.

While taking the appraisal of ongoing Projects at Bhawan under Master Plan-Durga Bhawan & Skywalk, the Lt Governor directed to expedite the work.

The Lt Governor emphasised that every effort must be made to complete all the ongoing projects in an expedient manner. The Board impressed for making maximum use of green technologies, rain water harvesting and solar power harnessing.

Discussion was also held on slope stabilisation and other upcoming projects including redevelopment of Parvati Bhawan and separate exit track from the Bhawan and remodelling of Manokamna area.

The Board also ratified several initiatives for welfare of Board's employees and creation of new posts for the operationalization of Durga Bhawan. Approval was also accorded to enhancement in financial assistance for the marriage of girls and grant of scholarship for meritorious students of ex-Baridar families.

The Board took appraisal of SMVD Charitable Society and approved grant in aids and financial assistance by the Board to educational institutions.

During the meeting, the Board took note of numerous steps aimed at rejuvenation of the Banganga and asked the CEO to prioritize such initiatives.

The Board also desired to complete the construction of Shankaracharya Temple near Katra in an expedient manner by resolving all pending issues with the help of concerned stakeholders.

Later in the meeting the Board members were also given a powerpoint presentation on the development of the Shrine of Shiv Khori at Reasi. Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar apprised the chair on the proposed works and plan for developing the shrine.

Agnipath scheme voluntary...

recruitment of youths in the armed forces.

According to these rules, those between 17-and-a-half and 21 years of age are eligible to apply and they would be inducted for a four-year tenure. The scheme allows 25 per cent of them to be granted regular service subsequently. After the scheme was unveiled, protests erupted in several states against the scheme.

Later, the government extended the upper age limit to 23 years for recruitment in 2022.

During the hearing, advocate Kumud Lata Das, representing one of the petitioners Harsh Ajay Singh, said after being recruited under the scheme, the Agniveers will have life insurance of Rs 48 Lakh in case of contingency which is much less than the existing one.

Whatever the armed forces personnel are entitled to, these Agniveers will get them only for four years, the counsel argued, adding that if the service would have been for five years, they would have been entitled to gratuity.

The counsel contended that after four years of service, only 25 per cent of the Agniveers will be considered for being retained in the force and there is no back-up plan for the rest of the 75 percent.

On the contention that this scheme has been formed in this way as it is a cost-cutting exercise of authorities, the bench asked where do the forces mention that it is a cost-cutting exercise.

"Where do they state it is a cost-cutting exercise? You want us to infer that it is a cost-cutting exercise? Unless they state so, you statement is of no consequence," Justice Prasad said.

The bench said that a person is getting a chance to join the armed forces at the age of 17-and-a-half years, "is it not good enough".

"Is it not a pure domain of policy? Why should we strike down the scheme as bad," the bench asked.

Another petitioner, who was arguing in person, said he has retired from the Indian Army and now practicing as a lawyer. He said the authorities should be asked to reconsider the Agnipath scheme as the six months of training to be imparted to agniveers is not enough and it is a very short time and it is not easy to get trained.

He claimed that this way the authorities would be compromising national security and that the quality of personnel will be affected.

When Justice Prasad said "Don't join it then", the petitioner said, "Is it an answer mildord that 'don't join'".

The judge shot back, "Yes".

Advocate Ankur Chhibber, representing another petitioner who has filed a petition concerning the recruitment processes for the armed forces under certain previous advertisements, said in the four years of service a sense of belonging would be absent in personnel.

He said those retained, their first four years would not be counted and they would have to start afresh.

As the bench sought the Centre to clarify this, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati submitted that she would take instructions on this aspect and inform the bench on the next date of hearing on December 14.

After concluding hearing arguments on pleas directly challenging the Agnipath Scheme, the bench will decide those petitions concerning the recruitment processes for the armed forces under certain previous advertisements.

The Centre had earlier filed its consolidated reply to several petitions against the Agnipath scheme as well as those concerning the recruitment processes for the armed forces under certain previous advertisements and has said there was no legal infirmity in it.

The government submitted that the Agnipath scheme was introduced in the exercise of its sovereign function to make national security and defence more "robust," "impenetrable" and "abreast with changing military requirements".

One of the petitions before the high court has sought a direction to the armed forces to resume the recruitment process which has been cancelled due to the introduction of the Agnipath scheme and prepare the final merit list after conducting a written examination within a stipulated time.

A petitioner has submitted he had applied for the post of a soldier (general duty) and his physical and medical examinations were conducted which he cleared successfully, and was waiting for the written examination.

However, he said, he found out on the official web site that consequent to the implementation of Agnipath, the ministry has stopped and cancelled all pending processes including the Common Entrance Examination (CEE) of Indian Army recruitment for the previous recruiting years.

Another petition, seeking that the recruitment process in the Indian Air Force as per a 2019 notification be completed without being affected by the scheme, is also pending in the high court. Earlier, the Supreme Court had asked the high courts of Kerala, Punjab and Haryana, Patna and Uttarakhand to transfer the PILs against the Agnipath scheme pending before them to the Delhi High Court or keep it pending till a decision from the Delhi High Court is delivered, if the petitioners before it so desire.

The Centre, in its reply, has stated that defending the Indian Territory, which has a "peculiar border situation", from external and internal threats requires agile, youthful and technologically adept armed forces, and the Agnipath scheme aims to reduce the average age profile of soldiers from the present 32 years to 26 years. Recruitment through Agnipath, the central government has added, involves a "merit-based, transparent and robust assessment process" and a fair opportunity would be provided to all willing personnel to compete for regular cadre and ultimately "nationalist, disciplined and skilled manpower would be provided to society and exited Agniveers will be an asset for the nation and society".

Terror-funding case...

framing of charges it was held by the court that there was sufficient evidence available on the record raising "grave suspicion" of involvement of accused in different offences. "I am of the opinion that once evidence has been found to be sufficient for framing of charge for above said offences, one can easily conclude that accusation against the accused appears to be prima facie true and therefore on this count itself application of accused can be declined," the judge said.

The court further rejected accused's claim of delay in trial, saying, "It be noted that right from the day when different charge sheets were filed in this case till date, there has been no delay in the trial". A 12,794-page charge sheet was filed by the NIA against Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others for "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir Valley. Saeed was also accused of using the services of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, a co-accused in the case, for passing on the money to the separatists and some individuals who were actively indulging in stone-pelting in various areas of the Valley, the NIA said in the charge sheet. The agency has charged Pakistan-based terrorists Saeed and Salahuddin, besides others, with criminal conspiracy, sedition, and under stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.