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Showcase vibrant, progressive...

applaud the creativity of our artists who are an intrinsic part of our priceless artistic and cultural heritage, said the Lt Governor.

Highlighting that Self- Help Groups have become vital agents for bringing about change in the society, the Lt Governor said the success story of Yasmina Jan from Pulwama makes us feel immensely proud, who with the help of Rural Livelihood Mission, became Tral's first dry fruit seller.

Noting that around five and a half lakh rural women are associated with handierafts, household and small-scale industries, besides looking after their family and contributing in farming activities, the Lt Governor called on all sections of the society to come forward and contribute in the development of women power.

Only through social cooperation and encouragement, the whole country will be able to appreciate and acknowledge the wonderful work done by the women, he added.

Sinha also mentioned about Self Help Groups of Prabha, Aasia Bano who are doing outstanding work and making their villages centres of trade and commerce and eventually turning Kathua district as a leader in furthering Women Empowerment.

He lauded the efforts of Sajan Gupta, Nikhil Randhawa, Sohan Lal, and Raman Gupta from Jammu, who have been identified as outstanding Agri-Entrepreneurs and have emerged as role models for the younger generation.

The Lt Governor also shared suggestions received from Sachin and Raman Jotshi from Jammu, Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh from Anantnag, Rashid Chowdhary from Rajouri, Mehreen Altaf from Srinagar on various issues including measures to promote the iconic Balidan Stambh complex, connecting youth with stories of freedom movement, interventions for soil health management, transforming district libraries into vibrant centres of knowledge and wisdom, making morning assemblies in school more engaging and establishing helpdesks in Government departments with expansion of e-office.

Responding to the suggestions, the Lt Governor said many brave martyrs of J&K have made immense contribution in the freedom struggle and ensuring the unity and integrity of the country. To remind the youth of the glorious history and sacrifices of great men and women, culture and achievements is imperative to motivate the younger generation to contribute towards nation building with a greater sense of responsibility and zeal.

Referring to the suggestion of transforming district libraries, the Lt Governor announced that soon new books will be added to the existing stock of all district libraries. In last one year, work has been done on priority for renovation of all the district libraries, besides stocking of better books and facilities, he added.

The Lt Governor expressed his gratitude to the citizens for sending their invaluable suggestions and actionable points and assured them that necessary action will be taken by the concerned departments.

Surrendered terrorist arrested..

terrorist group before their surrender.

Five separate cases under various sections of law including the Arms Act, Ranbir Penal Code and Indian Penal Code stand registered against Iqbal at Gandoh police station between 2006 and 2020, the official said.

Jammu Woman Sargam...

Initially, the pageant was named Miss Woman of the World. It came to be known as Mrs World only in 1988. Over the years, Miss World has seen entrants from over 80 countries with America having the most number of winners.

India has only won Mrs World title once, in 2001 with Dr Aditi Govitrikar bagging the coveted crown. Dr Govitrikar has now served as a judge for Miss India Inc 2022-23.

IIM Jammu to...

has agreed to give space on its campus for the opening of the Transit Off-Campus in Leh in the Union Territory of Ladakh," Sahay said.

He said both institutions have agreed to work in the areas of academic development, promotion of entrepreneurship, executive education, skill development, organising joint conferences, short-term education programmes, research, boot camps, and various other areas. The collaboration between both institutes will lead to outcomes in the interest of stakeholders and lead to sustainable growth and development for the regions of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, he said.

Mehta said the collaboration with IIM-Jammu will help the university to develop competence in many key areas ranging from the development of educational and training programs, long-range planning, development of entrepreneurship, better exposure for faculty, students, and institutional development.

Former Director Information...

Dhar made friends very easily and was loved and adored by everyone around him. He was a very religious person.

News of his death was received by journalists in J&K with shock and disbelief as many of the senior journalists and former officers of the Information Departments were in regular contact with him and used to analyse political developments taking place in the country and Jammu & Kashmir.

The group of retired officials of the Information Department held a condolence meeting at Jammu and conveyed heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Dhar.

K B Jandial who had served with him for a long time in the Information Department and one of Dhar's close friends said that he got the sad news from his eldest daughter Aarti with total disbelief.

His death is a personal loss to him. The Information Veterans passed a condolence resolution on his demise and prayed for his eternal peace to the departed noble soul and grant of strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Director Information and Public Relations, Akshay Labroo also condoled the demise of K.L Dhar. In his condolence message, the Director said that K.L Dhar was an astute administrator who contributed widely in different spheres of his life as well as during his tenure as Director Information.

The Director also expressed his deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul. Meanwhile, the employees of DIPR also condoled the sad demise of former Director Information. The officers and employees offered their deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Over 15,000 posts...

cancelled exams for recruitment of police sub-inspectors, junior engineers and finance account assistants following allegations of paper leaks and malpractices.

The CBI, which is investigating the sub-inspector recruitment scam, filed a charge sheet on November 12 against 24 arrested persons, including a BSF commandant.

"Work to fill up 1,400 vacant posts in the health and medical education department is likely to be completed very soon. Another 1,150 posts of junior engineers were advertised, for which 15,000 applications have been received," Sharma said.

He said 1,500 more posts have come up for advertisement. "There are certain doubts about the recruitment rules. Once these are cleared in consultation with the departments concerned, necessary steps will be taken to fill up the vacancies."

"There were some unforeseen events like the outbreak of COVID-19 (in 2020) and exam cancellation. But the major factor for the slow pace of the recruitment process is the litigations by the aggrieved candidates," Sharma said.

Referring to various steps taken by the board, including third-party audit and installing low-frequency jammers, the SSB chairman said all loopholes have been plugged, ensuring that selections are made in a fair manner and without any favour.

"The Lt Governor has made it clear time and again that the process for recruitment in government departments would be transparent with zero tolerance to any corrupt practices," he said.

Seeking the support of job aspirants, the officer said anyone with any complaint should directly approach the SSB and seek clarification or raise their concerns.

"We want students to come forward whenever they get any credible information about any type of malpractice. We are determined to make the recruitment process neat and clean to ensure justice with deserving candidates," he said.

Portion of under...

The caved-in portion is about 100 metres inside the tunnel from the Ramban side, the officials said. A police official said a detailed report, also covering the safety and lighting arrangements, is being prepared.

Azad announces head...

for Kupwara, Shoib Lone for Baramulla, Vinod Sharma for Jammu Urban, Ashwani Khajuria for Udhampur, Sushil Sharma for Rajouri, Brijeshwar Singh Bindoo for Kathua, Asif Jehan Gattu for Doda, Shabbir Ahmed Lone for Kishtwar, Surinder Singh for Reasi Rural, Rattan Singh (as Working President) for district Reasi Rural, and Bishan Mangotra as district president for district Reasi Urban.

"The remaining districts and committees will be announced soon," the spokesman said.

Police officers not..

October 28, 2001 on allegations of misconduct.

According to the charge sheet, Pandey, on the intervening night of October 26 and October 27, 2001, when he was posted as a constable on night duty at the Greenbelt Area of the IPCL Township, Vadodara, Gujarat at about 1 am, one Mahesh B. Chaudhry and his fianc e had passed through the area on motorcycle and had stopped in the corner, which is when Pandey had come forward and had questioned them.

As per the allegations, Pandey had taken advantage of the situation and had told Chaudhry that he would like to spend some time with his fianc e.

The charge sheet said that when Chaudhry had protested and did not agree, Pandey had asked him to give something to him and Chaudhry had then given a watch he was wearing at that time.

A complaint was made the next day by Chaudhary, which led to inquiry against Pandey resulting in an order for termination of his service.

The bench said that in its opinion the reasoning given by the High Court is faulty on both facts and law.

"On the question of proportionality of punishment, we have to observe that the facts in the present case are startling and distressing. Respondent No. 1- Santosh Kumar Pandey is not a police officer, and even police officers are not required to do moral policing, ask for physical favour or material goods," it said.

It said that in view of the factual and legal position, they accept the appeal filed by the CISF and set aside the impugned judgment of the Gujarat High Court.

"Accordingly, Special Civil Application filed by Respondent No. 1 -Santosh Kumar Pandey before the High Court will be treated as dismissed. The order of removal from service passed by the disciplinary authority is upheld," it said.

The bench said it takes reservations regarding the reasoning given in paragraphs of the impugned judgment as it fails to take notice and properly apply the law of judicial review.

"Judicial review is not akin to adjudication of the case on merits, and adequacy or inadequacy of evidence, unless the court finds that the findings recorded are based on no evidence, perverse or are legally untenable in the sense that it fails to pass the muster..." it said.

The top court added that the power of the High Court under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India enables exercise of judicial review to correct errors of law, including procedural law, leading to manifest injustice or violation of principles of fairness, without normally venturing into re-appreciation of evidence.

"The writ court, when disciplinary action is challenged, is primarily concerned with examination of the decision making process, which requires satisfaction that the competent authorities have held inquiry as per the prescribed procedure, and have duly applied their mind to the evidence and material placed on record, without extraneous matters being given undue consideration, and the relevant factors have been cogitated," it said. The top court said that the conclusions of fact, which are based upon evaluation and appreciation of evidence, when meticulously reached by the authorities, should not be interfered with merely because the court may have reached a different conclusion. "Thus, error of law is apparent in the reasoning vide paragraph 10 of the impugned judgment," it said.

Opposition ‘masters in...

own homes today and the majority of them are mothers and sisters of Tripura," he said.

Modi launched widening works of Agartala bypass from Khayerpur to Amtali, which will decongest the city, and also inaugurated State Institute of Hotel Management and Agartala Govt Dental College and IGM hospital (Agartala).

He also laid the foundation stone of 32 roads of total 323 km length under PMGSY-III, and 112 road projects with 542 km length.

Modi said cleanliness has become a mass movement in the last five years, and as a result, Tripura has emerged as the cleanest among small states of the country.

Through the PM Matru Vandana Yojana, every lactating mother is getting money in their bank accounts, he said, adding that institutional delivery is being done so that the mother, as well as the child, is healthy.

He said the focus of the government is on all-round development of Tripura and

the projects launched during the day will give a fillip to the northeastern state's growth trajectory.

Modi held a separate meeting with the council of ministers and returned to Delhi on a special air force aircraft.

He had earlier apologised to people assembled at the rally ground as he landed around two hours late from Shillong, where he had gone to attend the golden jubilee celebration of the North East Council (NEC).

Earlier in the day, addressing a public meeting in Shillong, Modi said the NDA government has shown the red card to many obstacles that came in the way of development for Northeast.

"Obstacles such as corruption, discrimination, violence and vote bank politics were removed," the PM said in his 26-minute speech.

"Earlier, attempts were made to divide NE. Now, we are removing these divisions," Modi said at the meeting.

He also inaugurated, dedicated and laid the foundation stone for multiple projects.

Among the projects inaugurated, one is the sprawling campus of the IIM-Shillong at the New Shillong Township.

The prime minister, who arrived in Shillong in the morning, attended the golden jubilee celebrations of the NEC at the State Convention Centre, along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several other Union ministers and dignitaries.

Modi, on the occasion, released 'Golden Footprints', a commemorative volume chronicling NEC's contribution towards the development of the northeast over the last 50 years, according to an official statement.

A short film on NEC's journey of 50 years was also screened on the occasion, the statement said.

In the closed-door meeting, Modi hailed the contribution of NEC to the development of the region.

Describing the eight states of the region as Asht Lakshmi' (eight forms of the goddess of wealth), he said that the government should work on eight foundation pillars for the development of NE.

The eight 'foundation pillars' are peace, power, tourism, 5G connectivity, culture, natural farming, sports and potential.

"The Northeast is our gateway to South East Asia and can become a centre for the development of the entire region. And to realise this potential of the region, work is underway for projects such as Indian-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and Agartala-Akhaura rail project," the statement said.

Many peace agreements have been signed, inter-state boundary agreements sealed and there has been a marked reduction in instances of extremism, he said.

In the last eight years, the number of airports in the region has jumped from nine to 16, and that of flights has increased from about 900 before 2014 to around 1,900, he said, adding that many northeastern states have come on the railway map and efforts are being done to expand the waterways also.

The length of national highways in the region has increased by 50 per cent since 2014.

Modi also talked about the potential of the region in the hydropower and tourism sectors. Speaking on the occasion, Shah said the Modi government has established peace in the Northeast which was once a militancy-affected region.

He said Modi has visited the region over 50 times in the last eight years and laid out the roadmap for the region's progress.

"Northeast was known for violence and separatism but during the last eight years, rebellious incidents have come down by 70 per cent. Attacks on security personnel have also been reduced by 60 per cent while civil casualties have come down to 89 per cent," he said. The North Eastern Council is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the region. It was constituted in 1971 by an Act of Parliament. However, it was formally inaugurated on November 7, 1972.

Railways to roll...

would roll out in December 2023.

"We are designing and the design should be out by anywhere by May or June -- We are designing a worldclass Vande Metro which will be a great leap forward," Vaishnav told reporters during an interaction. "These Vande Metro train will be manufactured in such large numbers that across the country, the trains which were of 1950s and 1960s designs will all be replaced," he added. Stressing that these Vande Metro will take care of middle-class and the poor, the Union Minister said the focus is not on the high-end customer.

"Rich people can always take care of themselves. The Central government, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi focuses on middle and lower classes people who are not able to afford," he underlined. The Prime Minister wants railways to make very big transformative change in every Indian's life, Vaishnav said. To a question on the hydrogen-based trains, the Minister said like Vande Bharat, the Indian engineers are designing it. "The design process is already going on and we should be able to roll out the first hydrogen train in the country by December 2023," he added. Vaishnav ruled out privatisation of railways saying, "Railways is a strategic sector and it will remain with the government." The Union Minister said the Railways is working on Vande Bharat-3 design, which will also have sleeper class. These trains would also be used for long journey.

Jonaraja Institute of...

move as a "window of opportunity" for the community fighting for resettlement since their exodus from Kashmir Valley more than 30 years ago.

"The aim of the institute is to study 12 major genocides which have taken place worldwide, some of which are recognised and a few others which remained unrecognised. The attempt is to understand the answers for genocide through analytical studies and different methodologies of research," Jonaraja Institute chairman Titu Ganjoo told PTI on the sidelines of the launch event.

"Such studies should have been carried out in India earlier but...nothing has been done," he said, adding they are focusing more on prevention and recognition of genocide and encouraging rescuers through their work.

The institute has been named after Pandit Jonaraja who was a great historian, a prolific poet and a psychologist of Kashmiri origin, its director Dileep Kumar Koul said. He claimed Pandit Jonaraja was the first to introduce the word 'genocide' through his Sanskrit book about 600 years ago.

Koul alleged, "Kashmiri Pandits are victims of genocide but it was never recognised and was deliberately brushed under the carpet."

Panun Kashmir convener Agnishekhar and Chairman Ajay Chrungoo hailed the establishment of the institute and expressed hope that it will provide a window of opportunity for the Kashmiri Pandit community. "The government is claiming restoration of normalcy but targeted killings of minorities and threats (by terrorists to Kashmiri Pandit employees) are still going on. The Army is saying 300 terrorists are active, while police say the number is below 100.... They are hiding the real picture which is otherwise grim," Chrungoo claimed.

Messi wins World Cup, Argentina beats France on penalties



FIFA WORLD CUP: Lionel Messi led Argentina wins World Cup after incredible Qatar final against France.

■ AGENCY LUSAIL: Lionel Messi's once-in-a-generation career is complete. The Argentina superstar is finally a World Cup champion.

Messi scored two goals and then another in a shootout as Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties Sunday to claim a third World Cup title despite

Kylian Mbapp scoring the first hat trick in a final in 56 years.

Now there's no debate. Messi is definitively in the pantheon of soccer's great-

est ever players, alongside Pel a record three-time World Cup champion from Brazil and Diego Maradona, the late Argentina great with whom Messi was so often compared.

Messi has achieved what Maradona did in 1986, dominate a World Cup for Argentina.

Messi put Argentina ahead from the penalty spot and played a part in Angel Di Maria's goal that made it 2-0 after 36 minutes.

Mbapp scored two goals in a 97-second span to take the game to extra time, and then Messi tapped in his second goal in the 109th minute. But there was still time for another penalty from Mbapp to take the thrilling game to a shootout. Gonzalo Montiel scored the clinching penalty kick after Kingsley Coman had an attempt saved by Emi Martinez and Aurelien Tehouameni missed for France. (AP)

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Sunday said the recent terror threats to Kashmiri Pandit employees in the valley belie the government's claims of normalcy.

A blog linked to The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, has released separate lists of Kashmiri Pandit employees who were recruited under the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (PMRP), and threatened to turn their transit colonies into "graveyards."

The government had recently informed Parliament that 118 civilians, including five Kashmiri Pandits and 16 other Hindus and Sikhs, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir between August 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated, and July

Hundreds of Kashmiri



JKPCC Spokesperson Deepika Singh Rajawat briefing media at party headquarters in Jammu on Sunday.

Pandits and other reserved category employees had shifted to Jammu in May under threat from terrorists. They are currently on a protest for over 200 days demanding relocation of Kashmiri Hindu employees outside the valley.

"Quite recently hit lists have been issued by TRF, we ask the Lt Governor to please explain how can these employees go back to their duties in such circumstances?" Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee

(JKPCC) spokesperson Deepika Singh Rajawat told reporters here.

"While he does not lose a minute to showcase his fairytale normalcy to his masters in Delhi, the bubble of his lies bursts factually when these lists are being published every other day," she said.

Rajawat said her party is fully convinced that the BJP and LG administration have made it a "matter of ego" as they fear if they succumb to the pressure of employees, their

"extravaganza of normalcy will be exposed."

"I want to remind them that it is not a political issue but a matter of life and death. We are fed up with our politicisation all over the country," Rajawat, also a Kashmiri Pandit, said.

The Congress leader said there are many employees who are put up in rented accommodations and who are more prone to attacks from militants.

She demanded immediate release of the salaries of the protesting employees and criticised the arm-twisting measure against the under threat employees.

"No such pressure tactic should be used against them as these actions have already made the insensitive and indifferent approach of the UT administration apparent while dealing with an issue which is solely of a humanitarian nature," she said.

