

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Confident army will...

bravery. "I believe in your bravery and steadfastness Terrorism should be finished from Jammu and Kashmir and you need to move forward with this commitment. I have full faith that you will achieve victory," Singh, flanked by General Pande and Lt Governor, said.

Four soldiers were martyred and three others were injured when their vehicles were ambushed by terrorists at Dhatyari Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buffliaz in the Surankote area of Poonch on December 21.

Three civilians, aged between 27 and 42, were allegedly picked up by the army for questioning following the attack. They were found dead the next day. Soon, video clips purportedly of torture of the detained civilians went viral on the social media.

"Such incidents (ambush) cannot be taken for granted. I know you are alert to the situation but feel more alertness is required. I want to assure you that the government stands with you and your welfare is our top priority," Singh said.

The Defence Minister asked the troops to avoid "mistakes that hurt the citizens of the country."

"The Indian Army is not considered an ordinary force in the world. The people accept that the Army is much more powerful than ever and also well-equipped compared to the past. You are the guardians of the nation but alongside protecting the country, you need to win the hearts of the citizens. It is a big responsibility on your shoulders," the Minister said.

"There is a need to do it with more seriousness and it can be achieved by meeting the people, listening to their problems and raising those issues at appropriate level for redressal," he said.

Singh paid his tributes to the fallen soldiers and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured personnel.

"I want to assure you that given the seriousness of the incident, required and appropriate steps would be taken. For us, every soldier is a part of the family and his life is very precious any one eyeing our soldiers is not acceptable to us," he said.

"The government treasury is open for further beefing up the security and the intelligence gathering," he said.

"The sacrifice of the soldiers is unparalleled and cannot be compensated with money. The void can never be fulfilled," he added.

Defence Minister along...

Council (DDC) members, former legislators and civil society members were also present at the meeting between the defence minister, Lt Governor and the families of the deceased civilians.

"Please have faith in us. Nobody can bring back to life of those who have died. But there will be justice," Singh told five members of three families of the deceased.

Singh further said that they are all pained at the loss of lives in Poonch.

"We all - I, LG Sahib and Prime Minister Ji - are pained," he told the kin in presence of Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and IGP Anand Jain.

"Whatever has happened...there will be justice," the defence minister told reporters at the GMC hospital where he had reached after meeting the families of the deceased civilians at Dak Bungalow.

"The Defence Minister met the families of the civilians, civil society and assured action against the guilty after an inquiry into the incident," former MLC Shahnaz Ganai, who was present in the meeting at Dak Bungalow, told PTL.

She said they are hopeful that the victim families will get justice, given the visit of the defence minister to share the pain and his assurance.

AC gives amnesty...

benefit of erstwhile amnesty scheme issued vide Govt. order no. 39-FD of 2018 dated 05/02/2018 due to various reasons including Covid-19 pandemic.

As such, large no. of representations were received from the trade/industry sector for granting a onetime opportunity to the dealers for settlement of the outstanding arrears under the pre GST tax legislations.

The amnesty Scheme provides relief to dealers on the terms; 100 percent waiver of penalty and interest under J&K General Sales Tax Act, 1962, and Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, for assessment/ re-assessment up to 2017-18 (07/07/2017 for all and 31/08/2017 for liquor dealers); 100 percent waiver of penalty and interest under J&K Value Added Tax Act, 2005, and Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, for assessments up to 2017-18 (07/07/2017); waiver of interest and penalty in (i) and (ii) subject to 100 percent payment of principal Tax in the manner and within the prescribed time as per the scheme to be notified by the Government; and, settlement of demands for Industrial Units under repealed J&K Value Added Tax Act, 2005 (up to 2017-18) (upto 07/07/2017), J&K General Sales Tax Act, 1962 (up to 07/07/2017 and 31/08/2017 for liquor-dealing units), and Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, in respect of assessed/ re-assessed demands including yet to be assessed cases with certain conditions to be notified in the scheme.

This decision on the part of government will result into minimising of tax dispute cases and winding up of pre-GST cases etc. The time limit for receiving the applications for this amnesty will not be more than six months from the date an order is issued in this regard.

The Administrative Council approved the project regarding construction of Nallahs from Peerkho Main up to Dhounthly on Right Bank of River Tawi Package-II at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.87 Crores to be funded under Capex Budget.

The project was prepared in compliance of instructions given by National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for abatement of pollution in River Tawi by diversion of untreated wastewater from storm water drains falling into it and treatment of the same before discharge into the river.

This will ensure proper drainage and sewerage network of the area which will directly benefit the households/local inhabitants besides ensuring compliance with the directions of NGT and CPCB regarding abatement of pollution in River Tawi here.

AC accords approval...

Gabbar Sarote in district Reasi (Length 13.10 Kms) at an estimated cost of Rs 27.588 Cr under RIDF XXIX funded through NABARD loan assistance and UT Government as per 90:10 ratio.

This road shall benefit about 10,000 people of villages Stujandhar, Samak,

Chardel, Doda, Tolan Laid, Lower Gabbar, Bagdhar, Jhatakote, Batalade, Ratnote and adjoining habitations in Reasi District who are suffering in absence of any terrestrial connectivity.

The AC also approved transfer of land for public purposes to the departments for carrying out different developmental activities. In favour of School Education Department it transferred 10 Kanals of land situated at village Padergund, Tehsil Villagam, District Kupwara for construction of Government Boys High School Dahama, 2 Kanals of land situated at village Nowhato, Tehsil & District Anantnag for construction of Government Middle School Nowhato, Zone Anantnag.

It also transferred 8 Kanals of land situated at estate Palla; Tehsil & District Budgam in favour of Social Welfare Department for construction of Vatsalya Sadan. Moreover 200 Kanals of land in estate Larmoo Tehsil Awantipora District Pulwama in favour of Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora for creating necessary infrastructure.

The AC provided 300 Kanals of land situated in estate Kenihama, Tehsil B.K. Pora, District Budgam in favour of Higher Education Department for construction of various establishments of Cluster University, Srinagar

In another decision the AC accorded approval to the project development of Industrial Estate at Sole Sungal, Akhnoor for development of 100 Kanals of land which includes road widening, retaining/boundary wall, power supply, water supply, administrative block, street lighting and centralized effluent treatment plant.

The project shall be funded out of the capex budget of the department from the year 2023-24. The project would entail an expenditure of Rs 23.78 Cr. As on date out of 100 kanals of land, 72 kanals has been allotted to the entrepreneurs and 28 Kanals of land is under utilities.

The project will boost industrial development in Jammu Division along with providing employment to the youth as it envisages setting up of developmental estate which would attract investment of Rs 33.27 Cr thereby creating job avenues to around 500 youth.

Govt working to...

seeking to cover those so far left out of his government's flagship welfare schemes, he said the change in the lives of crores of beneficiaries of these programmes in the last 10 years has been a story of courage, satisfaction and dreams.

Modi said it has been a great source of satisfaction for him to see the self-confidence of people when he interacts with them. It has been not even 50 days since the yatra began and it is a record that it has already covered 2.5 lakh villages, he said.

During the yatra, he said, one crore people have been given 'Ayushman' cards to benefit from the government-run health insurance scheme for the poor, 1.25 crore people have undergone health check-ups while more than 70 lakh were inspected for tuberculosis.

Taking a swipe at previous dispensations, he said if the situation seen during their tenure had prevailed now, then prospective beneficiaries of these schemes would have lost their hopes doing the rounds of government offices.

There is no nepotism and bribery now to get these benefits, he said, adding "Modi is like family to you. You don't need any connection."

In the 10 years of his government, 10 crore women have joined self-help groups across the country and have been given Rs 7.5 lakh crore through banks, he said, adding that it is his dream to make two crore women 'lakhpati'. This is boosting rural economy, he added.

The prime minister said his government's proactive outreach to people is meant to assure them that its schemes are available to all without any favour or discrimination. "I am searching for people who have been left out," he said.

Noting that the awareness about Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) cards is so far limited, he asked people to join the scheme. A new awareness about healthcare is rising in the country, he said.

Highlighting the campaign to organise small farmers, he spoke about efforts to expand FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) and cooperative enterprises like PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies).

"It is our endeavour that cooperatives emerge as a strong part of rural life in India," he said, citing its benefits in milk and sugarcane sectors.

"Now it is being expanded to other areas of farming and sectors like fish production also. We are moving ahead with the target of creating new PACS in two lakh villages in the coming time," Modi said.

Since the yatra's launch on November 15, it was the fourth time that Modi interacted with its beneficiaries and addressed them.

The programme is also seen as a key aspect of Modi's welfare agenda as he seeks a third straight term in office in the Lok Sabha elections, expected to be held in April-May next year.

Govt bans Masarat...

sovereignty, security, and communal harmony of India.

Additionally, there have been indications of the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) having linkages with banned terrorist organisations.

The outfit and its members have been supporting terrorist activities with the intent to create terror in the country, thereby endangering its security and public order.

Their anti-national activities demonstrate disregard and disrespect for the constitutional authority and sovereignty of India, the ministry said.

The Central government believes that immediate action is necessary against the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) to curb its unlawful activities, which pose a threat to the territorial integrity, security, and sovereignty of the country.

The outfit is likely to continue advocating the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India, promoting false narratives, and inciting anti-national sentiments among the people of the region, which could disrupt public safety.

Therefore, exercising the powers conferred by the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central government has declared the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) as an unlawful association with immediate effect, the ministry said.

The ban will remain in effect for a period of five years from the date of its publication in the official gazette, unless otherwise ordered.

Bhat has been in jail since 2010 for his alleged involvement in violent protests in the Kashmir valley.

His release in 2015 became the first impediment in PDP-BJP alliance when the

then chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed got him released immediately after taking oath.

Under pressure from its ally BJP, the then state government had to rearrest him on charges of sedition and waging war against the state after allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans at a rally.

Bhat was accused of playing a key role in organising violent protests in Kashmir in 2010, which resulted in the deaths of over 100 youths.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, the government has maintained a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, the ministry said.

This year alone, four organisations have been banned under the anti-terror law UAPA, and six individuals have been declared as terrorists, according to a home ministry official.

Govt plans to...

FCI has been able to sell only 3.04 lakh tonnes of rice under OMSS so far this year. In case of wheat, the nodal agency has sold 82.89 lakh tonnes wheat under OMSS, as per the official data. Rice inflation is at 13 per cent year-on-year and the government is concerned about key food prices ahead of 2024 general elections.

Poonch ambush: SFs...

The operation includes sniffer dogs, surveillance equipment and aerial mechanisms. Additional forces have been deployed to plug seven infiltration routes amid area domination operations in the area.

Mobile internet services will remain suspended in Rajouri and Poonch for the fifth day in a row.

Security forces and special operation groups have launched search operations at three places along the International Border (IB) in Samba district since this morning, officials said.

They said that this has been done as a precautionary measure due to the intense fog along the borderline, they said.

Security forces have also launched fresh search operations along the LoC in Kirni sector in Poonch following reports of suspicious movement in the area, they said. The operations are going on, they said.

Govt contemplates advanced...

that the youth are gainfully skilled for self and wage employment.

It was informed that J&K UT is participating in India Skills Competition 2023. The registration for the same is being done currently and more than 1600 candidates from have already registered for competitions in more than 60 skill sets identified by GoI.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized upon the skilled youth of J&K to use this opportunity to showcase their skills and talent and represent J&K in National Competitions and win medals and laurels for the UT and carry forward to represent India in World Skill Competitions scheduled to be held in France in 2024.

Earlier, MD JKSDM briefed about the agenda and the activities being carried out by the Mission Directorate while displaying a presentation on working of the Mission which is presently implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna and SANKALP in the UT of J&K. He informed that the Mission has initiated implementation of Nal Jal Mitra and PM Vishwakarma schemes in collaboration with Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K and the Department of Industries and Commerce.

MD JKSDM informed that the mission is in process of developing a robust Management Information System (MIS) to keep record and track the trained and placed skilled candidates. The MIS will have access by all the stakeholders and various departments that undertake different skilling initiatives in the UT, he added.

Intense cold wave...

and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius. The Met department said the weather is likely to remain mainly dry till the end of the month. Foggy conditions are many towns of the Valley, including Srinagar.

The visibility in the city has reduced to less than 50 metres due to the fog cover. There was less than usual traffic on roads in the morning while vehicles were seen moving at low speeds due to the reduced visibility.

"The visibility in Srinagar at 8.30 am was less than 50 metres due to the fog cover. The motorists should drive carefully due to the low visibility," an official of the local meteorological office said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake and the water supply lines, in several parts of the Valley.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Defence Minister visits...

resolute and steadfast against all challenges. He had also underscored the commitment of the Indian Army to respecting human rights and zero tolerance for violations in any form.

Magisterial probe ordered...

of a person in police custody in Police Post Jorian in Jammu, a police spokesman said. Sunil Kumar alias Sonu of Garhi-Bishnah in Jourian was brought to Jourian police post in compliance with a warrant issued by Additional District Judge Jammu and was to be produced in the court last Friday.

Sources said the case was related to a money dispute.

He was shifted to a community health centre (CHC) at Jourian as he was not responding, where doctors declared him dead, the spokesperson said, adding a magisterial inquiry has been ordered by Deputy Commissioner Jammu.

The post-mortem was conducted by a board of doctors in GMC Jammu in the presence of the magistrate and videography has also been done, the spokesperson said.

Sources said the entire premises including the lockup of police post Jourian, are under CCTV surveillance.

Frozen Fiesta 2.0: Showcasing Advitya Reasi beyond Katra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Frozen Fiesta 2.0 celebration concluded with resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of Reasi.

In alignment to promote adventure tourism, Frozen Fiesta 2.0 showcased the thrill of river rafting on the Chenab River. Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, the event successfully positioned Reasi as a promising adventure tourism hub, attracting enthusiasts seeking adrenaline-pumping escapades amidst the scenic landscapes of the district.

To create avenues of employment for entrepreneurs in Jammu, the culinary journey offered by Frozen Fiesta 2.0 was a resounding success. Visitors savored the richness of local cuisine prepared by locals, contributing not only to the festival's offerings but also empowering local communities and fostering economic growth.

The fest's exploration of landmarks like the



Shivkhori Cave, aligned seamlessly with the broader vision of fostering spiritual tourism. Frozen Fiesta 2.0 successfully attracted religious tourists, providing them with a profound connection to the deep-rooted mythological significance of the region.

During the fest, Reasi's architectural wonders were presented including the iconic Chenab River Railway Bridge and the historical gem, Bhingarh Fort, the festival positioned the district as a heritage paradise. It highlighted the rich cultural and historical wealth of Reasi, in line with the shared vision of promoting

the region's unique heritage. Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan expressed gratitude for the overwhelming success of Frozen Fiesta 2.0 and conveyed the district administration's commitment to sustaining the positive momentum. The administration is now poised to capitalize on the festival's success, unlocking the untapped potential of spiritual tourism by further developing Shivkhori as a thriving tourism destination. This initiative not only celebrates the cultural and historical wealth of Reasi but also opens new avenues for tourism, fostering economic prosperity.

Awareness programme under Yuva Vani held at GDC Ghagwal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: A One day Yuva Vani programme was organised at Govt Degree College Ghagwal in which Chief Horticulture Officer Samba Mukesh Kumar Sharma presided over the proceedings as Visiting District Officer.

In this Programme, Field Functionaries including Officers Of Agriculture, Horticulture and other allied Departments briefed the students about their ongoing Departmental schemes and how students can also act as catalyst in spreading the message to benefit prospect beneficiaries.

During the programme, Progressive orchardists from Block Ghagwal also shared their success stories with students wherein curious students put forth their queries and myths which were rightly responded by the progressive farmers.

Horticulture Development Officer Ghagwal Davinder Singh threw light on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Kissan Sathi, Daksh Kisan and other Departmental schemes.

J&K High Court promotes Asstt Registrars, subordinate staffers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Registrar General of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Wednesday issued order of promotions of the High Court staff.

According to order Veena Kumari, Assistant Registrar-I has been temporarily promoted as Deputy Registrar (Adm.) in Pay Level-11 (67700-208700), against the newly created post vide Government Order No. 14041-JK(LD) of 2023 dated October 13, 2023. Gopal Dass Sharma, Assistant Registrar-II has been temporarily promoted as Assistant Registrar-I in the pay Level-8A (50700-160600) against the post fallen vacant due to the promotion of Veena Kumari as Deputy Registrar (Adm.). Altaf Hussain Khan, Section Officer (Adm.) has been temporarily promoted as Assistant Registrar-II in the pay Level-8 (47600-151100) against the post fallen vacant due to the promotion of Gopal Dass Sharma as Assistant Registrar-I.

Molvi Mehboob, Court Officer has been temporarily promoted as Section Officer in the pay Level-7 (44900-142400) against the post fallen vacant due to promotion of Shri Altaf Hussain Khan as Assistant Registrar-II.

Abid Majeed, Naseema Matoo, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Shakeel Ahmad Hakeem, Ghulam Rasool, Shaideh Hussain, Abdul Majid Malla, Avinash Sharma, Gowhar Nazir, Rajeshwar Singh, Sunil Khajuria, Syed Mubashir, Sunil Saproo, Farooq Ahmad Dar and Ms. Neetu Kohli, Court

Officer and Head Assistants have been temporarily promoted as Section Officers, respectively, in the pay Level-7 (44900-142400) against the newly created posts of Section Officers created vide Government Order No. 14041-JK(LD) of 2023 dated 13.10.2023. Deepin Mahajan and Mohammad Yaqoob Wani, Head Assistants are temporarily promoted as Court Officers in the pay Level-6E (35900-113500) against the posts fallen vacant due to promotion of Molvi Mehboob and Abid Majeed as Section Officers.

Mohammad Ashraf Paul, Mohd Zabar Khatana, Choor Singh, Zia-ul-Qamar, Sanjaya Yousuf, Rajan Sallhotra, Narinder Kumar, Nusrat Malik, Neyaz Ahmad Lone, Raghav Gupta, Nidhi Koul, Sandeep Sharma, Bariq Ahmad Mir, Yogeshwar Singh, Abdul Rashid Malik, Mohammad Anour Shah and Bhavana Verma, Senior Assistants have been temporarily promoted as Head Assistants in the pay Level - 6B (35600-112800) against the posts fallen vacant due to promotion of Molvi Mehboob, Abid Majeed, Naseema Matoo, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Shakeel Ahmad Hakeem, Ghulam Rasool, Shaideh Hussain, Abdul Majid Malla, Avinash Sharma, Gowhar Nazir, Rajeshwar Singh, Sunil Khajuria, Syed Mubashir, Sunil Saproo, Farooq Ahmad Dar and Ms. Neetu Kohli, Court

temporarily promoted as Deputy Registrar (Computer) in Pay Level-11 (67700-208700), against the post fallen vacant due to the retirement of Neelam Kohli.

Ahmad Alt Bhat, Assistant Registrar-II (Computer) has been posted as In-Charge, Assistant Registrar-I (computer), on his own pay and grade, against the post fallen vacant due to promotion of Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma as Deputy Registrar (Computer).

Tanzila Sharief, Ishfaq Ahmad, Avnish Shardalia Sharma, Masroor Ahmad Sheikh and Vishal Singh Dogra, Readers have been posted as In-Charge, Bench Secretaries on their own pay and grade, against the newly created posts created vide Government Order No. 14041-JK(LD) of 2023 dated 13.10.2023.

Mohammad Altaf Bhat, Sanjeev Kumar, Nissar Ahmad Bhat and Aijaz Ahmad Darzi, Private Secretaries have been temporarily promoted as Secretaries in Pay Level-11 (67700-208700), against the newly created posts created vide Government Order No. 14041-JK(LD) of 2023 dated 13.10.2023.

Tarun Kumar Gupta, Michal Sharma, Amir Rashid and Abinash Kumar, Senior Scale Stenographers have been temporarily promoted as Private Secretaries in Pay Level-8 (47600-151100), against the posts fallen vacant due to promotion of Mohammad Altaf Bhat, Sanjeev Kumar, Nissar Ahmad Bhat and Aijaz Ahmad Darzi, as Secretaries.