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5 killed in...

were injured in a similar accident on Tuesday. In response to the frequent fatal road accidents along the Zojila stretch, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir along with SSP Ganderbal Nikhil Borkar, convened a meeting to address the issue and devise immediate safety measures. The DC emphasized the need to identify and compile a list of black spots on the Zojila road stretch. This initiative aims to bolster road safety measures, including raising crash barrier heights and installing signages and mirrors to enhance visibility and awareness. To conduct a first-hand evaluation of the road conditions, a joint visit involving all stakeholder departments and the Deputy Commissioner was also scheduled Friday. This collaborative effort seeks to assess the situation comprehensively and implement effective safety measures promptly so that such road mishaps are prevented in future. Meanwhile, the DC expressed grief over the unfortunate loss of lives in today's tragic road accident on Zojila pass in which 5 persons died.

2015 attack on...

Jammu. The NIA sleuths installed boards and pasted notices of attachment of the two properties at Chursoo in Avantipora area of the district, they said. "This is to inform general public that a double storey one residential house and one-single storey residential house under survey Nos 722,723 & 724 at village Chursoo, Avantipora, District Pulwama which are owned jointly by Khurshed Ahmed Bhat @ Khurshed Alam Bhat @ Surya S/O Ghulam Mohd Bhat R/O Bhatpora, Chursoo, Avantipora District Pulwama and his five brothers stands attached under the provisions of U(A)P/A by the order of Hon'ble NIA Special Court," the attachment notice read.

Fraudsters created fake...

health and medical education department. "It is strange that the accused herein is a journalist by profession and is allegedly involved in the crime and is a habitual criminal and many FIRs are already registered against him. So, in no circumstances, the accused/applicant herein is entitled to concession of bail," the magistrate said on Monday. The court said it appeared that it was a job scam and a gang was operating not only in Jammu and Kashmir, but their kingpin out of the Union Territory with the common intention to loot the unemployed educated youth. "There is no doubt that bail is the rule and jail is the provision. However, this principle has not to be applied blindly but is subject to various considerations and conditions. "Bail is not something which is readily available but the accused has to establish his prima facie innocence and his non-involvement in the alleged offence committed by him," the court said.

Police Insp Masroor...

he fired in the air and fled. Wani was rushed to a hospital in Soura where he was undergoing treatment. However, he was airlifted and brought to AIIMS Delhi on Thursday and was on life support. He breathed his last within an hour after being admitted. Besides his wife, he is survived by his father, mother, brother and sister. Wani's death has left a deep sense of loss among his colleagues and loved ones, said Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police R Swain. "You see Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel are always on duty and here the martyred police inspector has made a supreme sacrifice of his life. On behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir Police family, we stand behind his family in this hour of grief," he said.

Turning Wani as a courageous officer who valiantly served amid the looming threat of terrorism, Swain said "his sacrifice embodies the harsh reality our JK police personnel face, dedicating their lives to shield our communities from the shadows of terrorism".

The DGP has said that Inspector Wani's tragic sacrifice reminds us of the immense challenges our personnel encounter daily, even in moments of leisure. It is a grim reminder of the perils faced by our brave personnel while safeguarding the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The sacrifices made by police personnel like Wani in Jammu and Kashmir will forever remain etched in our memories. His noble spirit and unwavering commitment to serving the community serve as a shining example to us all, the DGP added.

He said the cowardly attack on a policeman, enjoying a moment of leisure, is a stark reminder of the vicious mindset perpetuated by terrorist networks operating at the behest of Pakistan.

"This tragic incident strengthens our resolve at the J&K Police to redouble our efforts in combating terrorism", he said, adding that Wani's legacy of bravery and selflessness will continue to inspire the police force.

"His memory will forever fuel our determination to dismantle the bones of terrorism in Kashmir. We reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the people of Kashmir and eradicating the menace of terrorism from our soil," he said.

Additional Director General of Police (operations) Vijay Kumar, who had immediately rushed to the scene on that day, consoled his loss and said every attempt was made to save him. "But unfortunately, we lost him today," he said.

Kumar, who was officiating as Inspector General of Kashmir range when the attack took place, had said the police had identified the terrorist as Basit Dar, who hails from Kulgam in South Kashmir and was active for quite some time.

Former chief minister and vice president of National Conference Omar Abdullah consoled the death of Wani saying this was the unfortunate truth of the valley where targeted killings were continuing.

CPI-M leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami said this incident punctures the tall claims of the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration about the situation being normal in Kashmir.

"Losing such a young, daring and vibrant cop is too difficult to compensate for! May his soul rest in peace and solace and may the bereaved family be granted with forbearance to endure this irreparable loss," JK Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said. The Resistance Front, a shadow group of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

LG Sinha pays...

Masroor Ahmad, the brave son of Mother India. I salute his courage and sacrifice. In this difficult moment of grief, I express my condolences to the family of the martyr," the Lt Governor said. "I want to assure the people that his supreme sacrifice will not go in vain. We are firmly resolved to crush the terrorist menace and give a befitting reply to those who are aiding and abetting terrorism," the Lt Governor said.

My child became...

Wani, aged 34, was shot by a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist on October 29 while he was playing cricket with his friends at Eidgah.

The scene was heart-wrenching at his residence, where mourners went to offer their condolences to his grieving wife and family.

According to his uncle Ghulam Mohammad Wani, Wani's health had deteriorated due to a severe chest infection. Initially, he was admitted to Soura Hospital in Srinagar, but was later shifted to Paras Hospital for further treatment from where he was flown to AIIMS in Delhi on Wednesday.

Remembered as an amiable and compassionate individual, he was always expressed his willingness to assist others. Lamenting the tragic loss, relative Ghulam Nabi Kakazgar said, "Masroor was very frank. He would always help people. We are very depressed. He was crazy about cricket, and cricket took his life away."

The loss of Wani has left the community shaken, highlighting the ongoing risks and challenges faced by law enforcement personnel in the region and the incident serves as a stark reminder of the sacrifices made by those who dedicate their lives to maintain peace and security in the face of adversity in the Kashmir valley.

CS for focus...

successfully. Besides the Principal Secretary, APD the meeting was attended by Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP); Secretary in Agriculture; HoDs of allied departments and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary observed that the Agriculture sector plays a pivotal role in changing our economy for better as it has not yet been harnessed optimally as per our innate potential. He made out that there are number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) along with HADP currently under implementation in the UT that can be game changers in this direction, if implemented successfully here.

The Chief Secretary further made out that in order to enhance the capacity of our farmers, it is imperative to give them hands-on training about the use of new techniques and technology. He advised the Department to designate public/private farms of Agriculture, Poultry, Dairy, Sheep or Honey in each block here and nominate a trainer for each of them to bring knowledge of labs into practice in the field. He asked for targeting at least 2 lakh farmers for imparting such a training in next 5 years period.

Dulloo further shared that an extensive baseline survey of about 20000-25000 farmers from different areas should be carried out to know about their concerns, expectations, priorities, income, awareness in addition to taking in consideration the fertility, profile, cropping pattern, weather and use of inputs and machinery by the farmers.

He expressed that this survey done under the University experts should be transformed into a well crafted research document which would act as a book to reckon upon for guiding us in better implementation of our schemes here. He asked for having a symbiotic relationship between our agricultural universities and departments for taking advantage of resources and infrastructure available with them to obtain desired outcomes in revolutionizing the agricultural sector in the UT.

As far as bringing further ease to the farmers of J&K is concerned, the Chief Secretary asked for having simplified procedures for availing different government sponsored benefits by them. He told them to provide them assistance in preparation of quality DPRs and approvals from the credit lending institutions to seek timely financial help for establishment of different units. He further directed for providing Smart Cards to the farmers availing credit facilities from financial institutions as per the RBI guidelines.

He asked for making it sure to extend the crop insurance to the farmers to secure them from any losses happening due to calamities. He even told them to disseminate the literature and display other Audio-visual content to the youth to depict the success stories and profits made possible in agriculture. He asked for making this sector lucrative for them to get them attracted towards it.

Dulloo also stressed on having intense follow-up of all the key outcomes of each scheme under implementation here. He asked for making strenuous efforts to obtain GI tagging of all the products in pipeline besides adding more to the list.

He asked for optimum exploitation of the sectors like dairy development, food processing, high density farming and value addition of the produce as these have greater potential and higher returns to offer. He even called for having export plans for the niche crops here and adding more items like Walnut, Kiwi to the e-NAM in addition to the apple already there.

In his presentation the Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar informed about the progress made in each scheme under implementation here. He gave overview of expenditure made under Capex, CSS and HADP till date. He even apprised about the future plans of the Department to make agriculture sector a

thriving enterprise here in the UT.

He gave out that the Department is aiming at establishing Milk processing unit in every district of J&K. He even revealed that the total business on e-NAM jumped to over Rs 300 Cr from mere Rs 30 Cr in the past. He made out that the progress in the implementation of HADP would fairly improve from next year as the process of grounding and capacity building has largely been accomplished in the first year of its implementation in J&K.

BJP likely to...

yet on the choices of the chief minister and the party will keep in mind social, regional, governance and organisational interests in picking the three CMs.

Leaders from three states have been meeting the top party brass, including Home Minister Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda, but sources played down their significance, saying such meetings are routine.

"So many state leaders have been meeting our national leadership. There can be only three chief ministers. One should not be reading too much into it," a source said, noting that many of the probables include MPs who have resigned from Parliament and are meeting national leaders as courtesy.

Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, a seasoned BJP leader from Madhya Pradesh, and Baba Balaknath, who is from Rajasthan, met Shah on Thursday. Both quit Lok Sabha after becoming members of assemblies of their states.

Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje, whose meeting with many newly-elected MLAs have raised a few eyebrows, is also in the national capital. She may also meet senior party leaders, sources said.

Tomar and Union minister Prahlad Singh Patel, who comes from politically significant Other Backward Classes, are seen as possible chief ministerial choices in Madhya Pradesh along with the incumbent Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Patel and Tomar are among 12 BJP MPs who have been elected to three state assemblies and have quit their parliamentary memberships.

Chhattisgarh BJP president Arun Sao, an OBC, Union minister Gomati Sai and Lata Usendi, both of whom come from Scheduled Tribes, are seen as serious contenders for the top seat in the state due to their social background, image and relatively young profile.

FCI to be...

the institute which has tied up with J&K Police for training of their jail inmates and kins of matrys for making them employable. He also lauded FCI for conducting various Skill Development Programmes in the hospitality sector within the campus and other satellite centres creating more entrepreneurs for the industry.

It was decided in the meeting that soon a mega millet festival would be organized to enable students of FCI showcase their culinary skills wherein industry leaders and professionals shall be invited. Besides, FCI Jammu has already come up with a booklet of millet recipes.

The Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon FCI to explore opportunities to work with industry leaders and tie up for industrial visits, visit of industry executives and professionals to the institute. This will help the institute to adopt latest industrial trends in the learning stage of students to equip them with latest know how, he added.

He urged upon Rakesh Wazir to arrange visit of high profile industry leaders to the institute for long term tie ups and interactions with students helping them in placements.

President Hotel & Lodges Association Katra, Rakesh Wazir, apprised the meeting that all major hotel chains have set up their hotels in and around Katra and there is an ever increasing demand of skilled manpower for the industry. He appreciated the administration for taking up FCI upgradation proposal which would immensely help the hotel industry get the skilled manpower within the region.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Director, Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar, Additional Secretary, Tourism Department, Sachin Dev, Additional Secretary, SDD, Narayan Dutt, General Manager JKTDC, Sham Lal, HoD & Administrative Officer, IHM Srinagar, Nirmata, HoD Food Science, PG Department Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Anuradha Gandotra, President Hotel & Lodges Association Jammu (Hotel & Catering Technology), Pawan Gupta and Principal of the institute, Jyoti Bhatti in person and virtually.

Cold condition intensify...

valley settled below the freezing point, officials said on Thursday. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, down from minus 2 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said. It was the coldest night of the season so far in the city, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, saw the minimum settling at minus 4.9 degrees Celsius, they said.

It was the coldest area in the Valley on Wednesday night. The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, down from minus 1.6 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Kokernag town in south Kashmir registered a minimum temperature of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded a low of minus 3.1 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological office said the weather would remain partly to generally cloudy, but mainly dry till December 11 and there would be a fall in the night temperature by a few degrees.

From December 12 to 15, there is a possibility of light rain/snow at isolated places in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, the MeT Office said.

DB expresses serious concern over frequent road accidents Expert Committee constituted to visit vulnerable spots on NH-44, NH-244, Mughal Road

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: A Division Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu comprising the Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi while taking serious note of frequent road accidents at Mughal Road, Batote-Doda-Kishtwar stretch and Ramban directed the Constitution of an Expert Committee consisting of a Professor from IIT Jammu having expertise in Road Safety, an Engineer to be nominated by the Chief Engineer SAMPARK, an Executive Engineer to be nominated by

Chief Engineer PWD(R&B), Jammu and Prof.(Dr.) G.M. Bhat- Former HOD of the Department of Geology, University of Jammu who is an acclaimed Expert in Land Slides on National Highways. The Division Bench further directed that Divisional Commissioner, Jammu who is already appointed as Nodal Officer in this PIL will coordinate the functioning of the Expert Committee. The Expert Committee has been directed to visit and inspect NH-44, NH-244 & Mughal Road and to ascertain the causes and reasons for frequent road acci-

dents. These significant directions were issued on three PILs filed by Intikhab Ahmed Qazi, Bar Association Doda and Asif Iqbal Bhat highlighting frequent Road Accidents and Dance of Deaths in Pir Panchal and Chenab Region. Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, Syed Asim Hashmi, Rahul Raina, Supriya Chouhan, M. Zulkarnain Chowdhary, Suraj Singh, Syed Majid Shah and Adnan Mushtaq Jaral appeared for the petitioners whereas Advocate Vishal Sharma, DSGI and Sr. AAG S. S. Nanda appeared for U.OI and Govt. of J&K.

SKJEVS Trust to celebrate its 11th Foundation Day on Dec 9

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: The Shri Kailakh Jyotish Evam Vedic Sanathan (SKJEVS) Trust is set to celebrate its 11th Foundation Day on Saturday, December 9 at 10:30 AM at the Convention Center, Canal Road, Jammu. This was stated by President Mahant Rohit Shastri in the press conference, here on Thursday. He said that the program will be presided over by Govardhan Puri Peethadheeshwar Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Adhokshajinand Devteerth Ji.



SKJEVS Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri briefing media.

The Chief Guest for the occasion will be Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir; he said adding that additionally, Prof

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKAUST-J), Jammu, and Sham Lal Sharma, former

Minister, Jammu and Kashmir Government, will be Guest of Honour and Special Guests, respectively. The event is expected to be a grand celebration with participants from various states, featuring cultural programs and the felicitation of eminent personalities, he said. The press conference was also attended by Trustees of the Trust, including R.K. Chhibber, K.K. Sharma, Anshu Sharma, Prof Sharat Chander Sharma, Ajay Sharma, Deepak Gupta, Jagdev Singh, Pramod Sharma, Naresh Raina, Vaneet, and others.

District President of BJP hails Govt's decision to reserve two assembly seats for Kashmiri migrant community

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: District President of BJP Kashmir Displaced District, Chand Ji Bhat expressed pleasure and appreciation of the Displaced Community of Kashmiri Hindus for the government's decision to reserve two seats in the assembly of Jammu and Kashmir for the Kashmiri migrant community.



District President of BJP Kashmir Displaced District, Chand Ji Bhat addressing media persons.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Chand Ji Bhat highlighted the historical and futuristic significance of this move, emphasizing the end of manipulated marginalization and exclusion of religious minorities in Kashmir:

He also mentioned the empowerment of the community politically and the restoration of its political legacy in the Kashmir Valley. He brought attention to the past manipulation of delimitation of territorial constituencies, which resulted in the minority community losing political representation.

"The passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Amendment Bill, which

reserves seats for the Kashmiri migrant community and displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), is acknowledged as a positive step ending discrimination," he added.

The Displaced Community expressed gratitude to the Narendra Modi-led BJP government and specifically Amit Shah, the Minister of Home Affairs.

He expressed hope that this significant step will lead to the political empowerment and reintegration of the displaced community with the Kashmir milieu, paving the way for dignified, secure, and meaningful rehabilitation.

LG Mishra extends best wishes on Armed Forces Flag Day

STATE TIMES NEWS LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) B.D Mishra (Retd), on Thursday extended his best wishes on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day. The LG appealed to the people of Ladakh to contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, providing financial assistance to ex-servicemen, their widows, and children. He mentioned that the Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on the 7th of December to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives preserving the integrity and unity of India.

On the occasion, the Director of Rajya Sainik Board, Colonel Lobzang Neema (Retd), apprised the LG that the Rajya/Zila Sainik Board and Ex-Servicemen members have initiated a drive to raise funds for the welfare of the armed forces and families of soldiers martyred/disabled during the performance of their duties.

This is done by distributing 'Token Flags' in return for voluntary contributions/donations. Members of Rajya/Zila Sainik Board, Ex-servicemen, and young NCC Cadets from 1 Ladakh NCC Battalion were present during the commencement of the fundraising drive at Raj Niwas.