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Better opportunities provided...

territories are currently under central rule.

He said the areas where naxals operate and perpetrate violence have come down significantly over the years and now 70 districts in the country are affected by the menace, from an earlier 126 districts.

Kovind also said that a peace accord has been signed with insurgent groups in Assam's Karbi Anglong district to end decades long conflict, and a new chapter of peace and prosperity has been ushered.

"Due to concerted efforts of my government, the number of naxal-affected districts in the country has also come down from 126 to 70 today," he said.

On September 21, 2020, the then Union minister of state for home G Kishan Reddy had informed Rajya Sabha that a total of 90 districts in 11 states in the country are considered naxal or left-wing extremism (LWE) affected, and are covered under the Security Related Expenditure scheme of the home ministry.

Reddy had also said that LWE-related violent incidents were reported in 61 districts in 2019 and in only 46 districts in the first half of 2020.

According to home ministry data, between 2004-2020, 8,380 people were killed by the Maoists in different parts of India.

The majority of civilians killed were tribals. They were often branded as police informers' before being brutally tortured and killed.

The tribal and the economically underprivileged sections, whose cause the Maoists claim to espouse, have been the biggest victims of the so-called 'protracted peoples war' of the naxals, the home ministry has said.

Referring to the insurgency in the Northeast, the president said the efforts of the Modi government to establish peace in the region have attained "historic success".

"Just a few months ago, a settlement was reached between the central government, the state of Assam and the Karbi groups to end the decades-old conflict in Karbi Anglong. This has ushered in a new chapter of peace and prosperity in the region," he said.

FM tables Economic...

compares to 9.2 per cent GDP expansion projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The Economic Survey 2021-22, details the state of different sectors of the economy as well as reforms that should be undertaken to accelerate growth. The gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 7.3 per cent in 2020-21.

The Survey focuses on supply-side issues to improve the resilience of the Indian economy.

13 JKAS officers...

charge of the post of Director, Rural Sanitation, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Manzoor Hussain, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Rajouri, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian; Mohammad Ahsan Mir, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla as Director, Command Area Development, Kashmir; Pram Singh, JKAS, Special Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj as Additional District Development Commissioner, Doda; Khurshid Ahmad Shah, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar as Additional District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal; Rajinder Singh, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Recovery, Jammu headquartered at Jammu, holding additional charge of Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Central), Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Samba.

Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Recovery, Kashmir headquartered at Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Gulmarg; Ritu Mahajan, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kathua as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Central), Jammu; Zahoor Ahmad Raina, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Gulmarg, as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla; Ashwani Kumar, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Samba as General Manager, DIC, Rajouri; Mridhu Salathia, JKAS, Deputy Director, Information (Hqrs) in the Directorate of Information, J&K as Additional Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Jammu; Tahir Mustafa Malik, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rajouri as Director, Land Management, Srinagar Development Authority; Sanjay Kumar Bhat, JKAS, Personnel Officer in the Directorate of School Education, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

NCC coverage in...

drug menace in J&K UT, through cadet peer-led intervention.

"As the largest uniformed youth organization in the world, NCC can raise awareness, create a culture of fighting substance abuse and effectively guide the curiosity of young and vulnerable people in colleges and community", added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said the values duty, unity and discipline imbibed by the cadets in NCC inspires them to join the Police and Armed Forces. He further observed that

the UT administration has also made provision to give extra credits based on NCC certificate to the aspirants.

This year the Republic Day Parade Contingent of JK&L comprised of 57 cadets selected after tough process of three grueling and arduous Pre-RDC Camps to represent Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate. 16 cadets were selected for Rajpath Parade, 04 for Guard of Honor and 03 cadets have been awarded DGNCC Commendation Cards this year.

On the occasion, Cadet Anu Choudhary shared her experience and learning gained during the process carried out for the selection of contingent of JK&L for the Republic Day Parade-2022 and Cadet Jarnish Bandal expressed his experience of developing camaraderie and bonhomie over the course of Republic Day camps.

Major General Ranjan Mahajan, Additional Director General NCC Directorate JK&L, highlighted the achievements and activities undertaken by the cadets of the NCC Directorate and selection of NCC cadets in Indian Army, Armed Forces and other Ranks.

He informed that the NCC Cadets will visit around 700 families of NoKs of the martyrs as part of 'Shaheedon Ko Shat Shat Naman' initiative.

A team of the NCC cadets recited the NCC song- "Hum Sab Bhartiya Hain" to mark the occasion.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; B K Singh, Administrative Secretary, School Education; Sh. Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department; Dr. Ravi Shanker Sharma, Director School, Education Jammu; Brig. N R Babu, DDG; Col Ravinder Singh, Contingent Commander, besides Senior Officers; ANOs and Instructors were present on the occasion.

J&K sees 15...

they said. A total of 764 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said. With this, the total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh has gone down to 1,212 including 808 in Leh and 404 in Kargil district.

Custodian General's order...

however, deserved to be noticed that the Tribunal, which accepted the revision petition and set aside the impugned order of Custodian General, should have remanded the matter back to Custodian General to pass appropriate orders in accordance with law," the Court observed and quashed impugned order passed by Custodian General.

H&ME Deptt tie-ups...

pandemic and strengthen the national health systems for emergency response and preparedness across the country.

One day salary...

order issued, ADDC Anantnag has been appointed as enquiry officer and shall seek an explanation from the Executive Engineer as to why disciplinary action shall not be initiated against him and submit the report within 10 days.

Kargil War Hero...

in Jammu and Kashmir on February 1, 2020.

Commissioned to the Army's 13 JAK Rifles unit, which was nicknamed as the "bravest of the brave", on June 12, 1982, the illustrious officer earned widespread appreciation in the Kargil War and for initiating the Army's outreach programme for youngsters in Kashmir during his tenure as the Northern Command chief.

Lt Gen. Joshi has had command experience spanning the entire mosaic, covering all theatres. He commanded 13 JAK Rifles in Operation Vijay (Kargil War) and Operation Parakram.

The GOC-in-C caught the attention of the nation during the Kargil War with his outstanding leadership and led his unit to unprecedented success.

"In Operation Vijay under his command, the unit was awarded with a total of 37 gallantry awards, including two Param Vir Chakra, eight Vir Chakra and 14 Sena medals", a defence spokesperson said.

Lt Gen. Joshi himself was awarded Vir Chakra and Captain Vikram Batra of his unit was awarded Param Vir Chakra.

Lt Gen. Joshi has been portrayed in films twice -- by actor Sanjay Dutt in LOC: Kargil (2003) and by actor Shatay Figar in Shersha (2021). He has been the face of the Indian success in Operation Vijay and Operation Snow Leopard, and has become part of military folklore for his role as a charismatic and enlightened leader, former Army officials said.

The unit has also been awarded with the Chief of Army Staff Unit Citation and the "Bravest of Brave" award, the spokesperson said.

Lt Gen. Joshi served in Ladakh for a long period as he commanded an infantry brigade in Tangtse, an infantry division in Karu and the Leh-based 14 Corps. He also served as the director general, infantry and was instrumental in catalysing the modernisation drive of the infantry.

He was the chief of staff of the Northern Command before taking over the reigns of the Northern Command as its commander.

Being an epitome of a "scholar warrior", he attended the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington and was posted to the Military Operations Directorate. Since then, he served in the Military Operations Directorate thrice in various capacities,

heavy to very heavy snowfall.

However, the 'Chilla-i-Kalan' this year was not harsh like the last year and there was less snowfall during the period.

Even after the end of 'Chilla-i-Kalan', the cold wave continues in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold). However, both these periods are considered less harsh.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius up from minus 2.3 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius up from minus 7.4 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Palahgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which also serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius up from minus 7 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.8 degree Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius. The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius. The Met Office has said there is a possibility of rain or snow at scattered places over the next 24 hours. After that, there are chances of a wet spell from February 2 to 4 as well, it said.

EC extends ban...

review of the present Covid situation in the poll-bound states of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, it has been decided that no roadshows, 'padyatras', and cycle, bike or vehicle rallies and processions will be allowed till February 11.

The Commission also decided to allow physical public meetings of political parties or contesting candidates in designated open spaces with a maximum of 1,000 people, instead of existing 500 people, or 50 per cent of the capacity of the ground, or the prescribed limit set by state disaster management authorities, whichever number is lesser, from February 1 "for all phases".

While Uttar Pradesh will have polls in seven phases between February 10 and March 7, Manipur will have polls in two phases on February 27 and March 3. Uttarakhand and Goa will have single phase poll on February 14. Punjab too will have a single-phase election on February 20.

The Commission also enhanced the limit on the number of people for door-to-door campaigns from 10 to 20, excluding security personnel.

"The Commission has now granted relaxation for the political parties to the extent that indoor meetings of a maximum of 500 persons (instead of existing 300 persons) or 50 per cent of the capacity of the hall or the prescribed limit set by SDMA is allowed," it said.

The EC statement said that all remaining restrictions which were part of the revised broad guidelines for conduct of elections issued on January 8 will continue to operate.

Responding to a query on the ban on physical rallies, a senior official said events which are attended by thousands of people during electioneering are not allowed. Only "physical public meetings" with a cap of 1,000 people are allowed.

In-depth discussions were also held with respect to the current vaccination status of first and second doses for eligible persons in the respective states as also arrangements for polling personnel, the EC said.

Kashmir gets some...

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GCW Udhampur hosts extension lecture on 'Urdu Language & National Brotherhood'

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As part of the celebration of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" - the Literary Club of Government College for women (GCW) Udhampur under the Convenor-ship of Dr. Mool Raj (HOD Urdu) organised an extension lecture on the Theme "Urdu Language and National Brotherhood" through virtual mode. Principal of the College Prof. Minu Mahajan was the chief guest. The program was inaugurated with the formal welcome address by Dr. Mool Raj. In his address, Prof. Mool Raj extended warm welcome on behalf of the staff and students of GCW Udhampur to all the guests and participants.

Principal of the College, Prof. Minu Mahajan in her address highlighted the role of Urdu language in upholding the entities of universal brotherhood across all regions, religions, cultures and languages of the nation.

Dr. Hriday Bhami Pratap, Sr. Assistant Professor of Urdu, Zakir Husain Delhi College of Delhi University, was the resource person on this occasion. He enlightened the audience with valuable thoughts on the subject.

Putting across his point, Dr. Bhami said that the Urdu language is not only a modern Indian language, but it is such a heritage of India, in which the 'Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb' of India has been reflected. "Hindu-Muslim unity and brotherhood is visible across the country which is the gift of Sufism to India that not only enlightened the people spiritually but also developed and uplifted the Urdu language and literature" he added. He further said that the language is an epitome of universal brotherhood which reflects in its composition and literature composed of the words and alphabets of different languages. Around 100 students and faculty members participated in the programme. The programme concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Prof. Yash Paul (HOD History).

Govt extends APR filing date for employees upto Feb 15

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Monday extend the filing of Annual Property Returns (APRs) by the government employees on Online Property Returns System (PRS Portal) upto February 15, 2022.

"Vide Circular No. 56-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated December 22, 2021, detailed instructions were issued to all the employees to register themselves on the PRS Portal and subsequently file their annual property returns for the year 2021 necessarily, on the portal from January 1 to 31, 2022.

The DDC chairperson laid special thrust on the employment of left out locals, including the project affected families in the Hydro Power Projects.

She also laid stress on the adherence to the minimum wage Act by the project construction companies, transparency in the employment in these projects and Air services to the Marwah and Warwan areas throughout the year.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com Jammu said that the Hydro electric power Projects have opened job avenues and opportunity for skill up-gradation for the local youth.

He directed the concerned Authorities to host skill development Programme on a mass mode basis in collaboration with the HEP authorities and outsourcing agencies to serve both the short term and long term need of skilled youth for employment in ongoing HEPs.

The Div Com further urged the district administration and the project authorities to work together to chalk out a comprehensive Employment generation plan for the maximum number of local youth in these HEPs. During an interaction with the delegation of the media persons, the issue of the establishment of a press club was raised and the Div Com assured to meet the demand in a stipulated time frame.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohan Singh, next In charge of the school said that Renu Gupta rendered 34 years of service in the Education Department and services rendered by her in the Deptt. shall be remembered for a long time. The function con-

cluded with a presentation of memento to the retiring Officer.

Meanwhile, Teacher Vinod Sharma in Government Girls High School Ghagwal of Samba district was given farewell by the teachers on

his retirement. Principal Kamal Sharma, DDC Suresh Kumar (Falli) ZEO Thakur Chand, Headmaster Raj Kumar, Teacher Sukhdev Singh, Sandiya Verma, Monika Sambyal, Nishis Chaddha, Devi Singh, Ramratan Singh, Sunil Sharma, Rachna Sharma, Palvi Gupta, elder brother Vijay Kumar Sharma, Younger Brother Rajesh Sharma, Mridul Sharma, were present.

Farewell accorded to Headmaster, teacher



Renu Gupta, Headmaster, Govt. Girls High School, Dablehar, RS Pura and Teacher Vinod Sharma in Government Girls High School Ghagwal being given farewell.



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KISHTWAR: Divisional Commissioner Jammu