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Administration sensitive to...

did in the past," Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said, a directive has been issued to organize such special governance camps for POJK brothers and sisters to ensure saturation of social security schemes, self-employment and skilling.

He also highlighted that almost all the posts under PM Package have been filled and the UT Government has made all the arrangements for construction of 6000 dwellings.

"Except two, the construction is underway on all the sites. I am personally monitoring the progress. By this April, 1200 houses and till December 2700 houses will be ready. All the pending promotions were completed recently. The process of promotion from Non-gazetted to gazetted is going on and I hope that it will be completed by the end of this month," the Lt Governor said.

He also said that 80% to 85% PM Package employees are posted at district headquarters. Some are posted at tehsil headquarters after the security audit of the areas. We have ensured that no one is posted at any office or school situated in remote isolated area, he added.

"We are committed to fulfill the expectation of people. Earlier, the laws were formulated to retrieve the properties of Kashmiri Pandit brothers but it was not implemented. We have taken immediate action and out of 8000 applications received on Migrant Portal around 6000 cases have been resolved. The administration and the security forces are working with dedication to ensure your safety," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed the concerned departments for the up-gradation of community hall and a playground.

Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; KK Sidha, Commissioner, Relief & Rehabilitation and other senior officers were also present.

Soldier injured in ...

forward areas are dotted with landmines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such types of accidents, they said.

GSI team inspects...

Thathri tehsil to know the reason for the cracks in 19 residential houses, a mosque and a religious school for girls.

Mahajan, who along with other senior officers including Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom met the affected families, said the GSI team will submit its report soon.

Over 100 members of 19 families were evacuated after their houses developed cracks. Three of the houses collapsed on Friday.

The Deputy Commissioner assured all possible help to the affected families and said a relief camp with all necessary facilities has been set up for them.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Thathri, Athar Amin Zargar said administration is closely monitoring the situation and all necessary and precautionary measures are being taken for the safety of the people.

State land freed...

position and violated the law to encroach upon the state land" would face action. Encroachments were removed on Saturday from many places in Srinagar including at Humhama, Peerbagh, Padshahibagh, Nishat and Chattabal, the officials said.

At Humhama, State land was freed from the occupation of former Director (Information) Farooq Renzu Shah.

The outer wall of a house belonging to Shah was demolished and about one kanal of state land was retrieved from his possession, the officials said.

Shah said the ancestral property belongs to his family and was not registered in his name.

"I support the rule of law, but, the government should implement the rule of law without fearing the influential people, and not target only one or two of them," he said.

In other such action in Srinagar, the authorities demolished the outer wall and gate of the residential house belonging to advocate Shabnum Lone, who is the sister of Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone.

The outer wall of Shabnum Lone's residence in the KralSangri Nishat area of on the city outskirts was demolished by a team of the Revenue Department, Srinagar, to reclaim state/Kacharai land under Khasra no 3557 from her occupation, the officials said.

In Chattabal area of the city here, the authorities sealed a shopping complex claiming it was built on State land.

However, advocate Shoab Zahoor, owners of the property, said the particular chunk of land was allotted to them by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) through an open auction in 2004.

He appealed the LG administration to look into the issue.

The eviction drive gained momentum all across Jammu and Kashmir.

SRINAGAR: The District Administration Srinagar on Saturday undertook massive anti-encroachment operations across the District to retrieve Government Land from the illegal occupants and reclaimed about 409 kanals of prime State/Kahchharie land worth over Rs 240.58 crore from the influential land grabbers.

The Anti-encroachment operation was launched in all 7 Tehsils of the District including, Eidgah, North Srinagar, Panthachowk, Khanyar, South Srinagar, Central Shalteng and Chanapora Tehsil.

The special anti-encroachment Squads constituted by District Administration Srinagar headed by respective Tehsildars conducted mass scale anti-encroachment drives while taking assistance of Police and other Departments.

A team of Revenue and Police Officers/Officials headed by Tehsildar North, Kaiser Mehmood launched a massive anti-encroachment drive in Dara and Danihama villages and retrieved 12 kanals of State/Kacharie land worth Rs 3.60 crores from the land grabbers. While in Ahai village of the Tehsil the anti-encroachment team also retrieved 35 kanals of land including a hotel worth Rs 35 crores.

Similarly, in a major anti-encroachment drive launched at Balhama village under the supervision of Tehsildar Pantha Chowk, Rakib Ahmad as many as 77 kanals of Kahchharie land was retrieved under survey no 1522, 1442 and 1443 having value of over 33 crores.

Likewise, Kreshibal and Anchar villages in Eidgah Tehsil, Revenue Team headed by Tehsildar, Ishfaq Ahamd Khan retrieved 101 kanals and 17 marlas of State land worth Rs 40.74 crore from the illegal occupants.

Two bootleggers nabbed, haul of illicit liquor seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: In the overall supervision of SSP Rajouri Mohammad Aslam, Addl SP Mohd Rafi Giri and SDPO Nowshera Tousif Ahmed, a party of Police Station Dharamsal led by SHO Dharamsal Manpreet Singh during surprise Naka checking at Bhakahr recovered/seized 16 bottles of whiskey and 49 bottles of Rum from possession of Kamaljeet, son of Kalpal Singh and Mohd Tariq, son of Mohd Aslam both residents of Chowki Handan Tehsil Nowshera, who were carrying illicit liquor in a Eco Sport car (PB01N/0701). Duo was arrested and FIR 9/2023 under sections 48(A) of Excise Act against both.

4 drug peddlers arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police on Saturday arrested four drug peddlers in Kulgam & Anantnag and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Kulgam, Police parties from Police Station Qazigund during naka checking at Manigam and Bonigam areas of Kulgam intercepted three suspected persons. During checking, 9 gm Heroin like substance and cash amounting to Rs 22,100 (proceeds of narcotic crime) were recovered from their possession. The accused were identified as Javid Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Shaban Dar resident of Bonigam, Azad Ahmad Naikoo son of Sona-ulla Naikoo resident of Nassu Qazigund and Mashkoor Rasool Itoo son of Ghulam Rasool Itoo resident of Naugam Banihal. They were arrested and shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been initiated.

In Anantnag, on a specific information a police party from Police Station Bijbehara at a special checkpoint established near Fruit Mandi Jablipora Bijbehara intercepted a suspect identified as Sayar Ahmad Wani son of Gull Mohammad

Wani resident of Wopzan Bijbehara. During search, Codeine Phosphate bottles were recovered from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR 21/2023 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Bijbehara.

9 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Nine vehicles involved in illegal mining were seized at multiple locations of Kathua district. Joint Teams of Geology and Mining Department and Kathua Police seized 4 vehicles in Billawar, 2 in Ramkote and 3 at Kathua.

The DMO informed that all seized vehicles are in the custody of the police in respective areas and shall be released after payment of penalty as per the existing rules of the department. "The seized vehicles bear registration number JK08M 6634, MBNGAALP2NRF01259, JK14G 1650, JK14H 8134, MBNBEBBAEJNM0135, JK08H 1670, JK08F 1567, JK08G 9915, JK08E 0407", he added. The drive was launched under the supervision of SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal.

In South Tehsil of the District, a team headed by Tehsildar, Moean Azhar conducted a massive anti-encroachment drive in KP Bagh and retrieved 40 kanals and 17 marlas of Kacharie land worth Rs 51 crores from the encroachers.

Similarly, in Khushipora and Rampura villages of Central Shalteng Tehsil 21 kanals of Kahchharie land worth Rs 16 crore has been evicted from the land grabbers including a commercial complex.

In Chanapora Tehsil over 87 kanals and 11 marlas of Kahchharie land was also evicted from land grabbers in Laloo Sheshgari Bagh and Nowgam area having value of Rs 42.5 crore under the supervision of Tehsildar Chanpora, Saqib Saleem.

In Khanyar Tehsil 34 kanals of State land was also retrieved in Nishat and Brane villages worth Rs 14.64 crore under survey no. 43, 3557, 2919 and 3157 under the supervision of Tehsildar Khanyar Aailya Tabasum

With regard to ongoing anti-encroachment drives undertaken in Srinagar District, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar applauded the efforts of the Anti-encroachment squads, the Deputy Commissioner asked them to continue the anti-encroachment drives in their respective jurisdictions as per standing instructions with added zeal and dedication so that all State/Kachchharie land is retrieved.

Pertinent to mention that the Jammu and Kashmir Administration on Thursday said the encroached State land is being retrieved from the big vested interests only with the purpose of reverting it back for public use.

The LG Administration has clearly said that common masses and poor people wouldn't be touched during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive launched to retrieve state land from encroachers. It has been also said in the statement that the government is concerned to safeguard the interests of poor people and only those who have illegally occupied the Government land by using their positions will be dealt with strictly. The government has reiterated that retrieved land will be used exclusively for projects and programmes of public importance.

KATHUA: Under the ongoing Anti-encroachment drive, District Administration Kathua on Saturday reclaimed over 546 Kanal illegally occupied State/Roshni land in the district.

The eviction drive was carried out jointly by Civil & Police administration in separate eviction drives held in different tehsils of the district.

The Revenue teams retrieved approximately 491 kanal, 19 Marlas State Land in block Dinga Amb, 30 Kanal, 17 Marlas in Mahanpur, 14 Kanal, 01 Marla in Marheen and 09 kanal, 07 marlas in Basohli Tehsil respectively.

A piece of prime land of commercial category measuring 05 marlas was also recovered from a prominent politician during the eviction drive in Tehsil Billawar.

With today's eviction, the total retrieval of state land in Kathua in different parts of 11 tehsils of Kathua district stands at 31683 kanal and 15 marlas, besides 1157 kanal and 14 marlas of kahchharie land.

RAMBAN: The district administration Ramban, in continuation of the anti-encroachment drives, on Saturday retrieved more than 708 Kanal State land across different Tehsils of the district.

In joint anti encroachment drives by Police and Revenue teams, 207 Kanal state land was retrieved in Tehsil Ramban; 400 Kanal in tehsil Pogal-Paristan (Ukhral); 21 Kanal in Ramsoo, 80 Kanal in Rajgarh, 65 Kanal in Banihal and 08 Kanal in Batote.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Ramban asked Revenue officers and other team members to evict the state land from the encroachers.

KISHTWAR: In continuation of the anti-encroachment drive, District Administration Kishtwar on Saturday retrieved around 67.09 kanal encroached state land from ex-Minister and his family in Karool, Sarthal area of district Kishtwar.

Meanwhile in another instance, 5.06 kanal encroached state land was vacated at Lachkhazana from the possession of another ex-Minister.

The Anti-encroachment team comprising revenue officers, police and other departments conducted the eviction.

The sign board indicating the status of land as Government land was installed on the site.

The evicted land will be soon utilised for various critical Govt projects and land bank will be created for addressing land requirements by various departments.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), made an attempt to wade into the controversy, a move described by police as an attempt to misinform the general public.

The District Administration Anantnag on Saturday conducted massive anti-encroachment operations against various stone crushers operating from State lands.

The action has come in the wake of widespread anti encroachment operations in the district in which encroachment of several influential people have been removed. Encroachment by 3 stone crusher units at Bumthan was retrieved by Tehsildar Anantnag. Sharing details, the officials confirmed that 3 crusher units who were completely operating from State land were put to notice a few days ago and today demolition drives were held as they failed to pay heed to the Government notices.

He informed that a total of 25 kanals of land was retrieved.

The officials said that while removing boundary walls and allied structures, the encroachers have been given a week's time to remove the machinery from the spot failing which the machinery will also be seized.

No residence or...

to the people to corporate with administration for their own benefit.

She again assured that no residence or small commercial unit will be affected by the anti encroachment drive.

We support poor...

for the anti-encroachment drive.

He said after meeting Union Home minister Amit Shah in Delhi and later the Lieutenant Governor assuring that only the land will be retrieved from mafias, the DAP is calling off the protests.

"We have decided to call off the protests for now since we have got assurance from the highest authorities. Let's watch and see how things are unfolding on the ground," he said.

The DAP was holding protests across the Union Territory ever since the order of land eviction was issued. Azad, however, said that his party will not stand by the rich people who have encroached upon huge swaths of land and built mansions over these.

"Those who have 'captured' small pieces of land and built homes or shops to feed their families must not be touched by the authorities. We can't snatch their livelihood or render them homeless when it is the responsibility of the state to think and work for the welfare of people," he said.

BMW Golf Cup 2023 commences in India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BMW India kick starts its India edition of the largest amateur golf tournament - The BMW Golf Cup 2023 in Chennai on Saturday.

The much-awaited golf tournament will be held at spectacular golf courses across Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Noida, Kolkata and Gurgaon. The winners of the regional tournaments will compete at the national finals which will be held in November 2023. BMW Golf Cup, one of the world's largest amateur golf tournament series can trace its roots back a quarter of a century to a British-based initiative that ran on its own for five years before going international. The tournament started as the BMW Invitation Tournament in UK. It has now developed into a global series with 1,000 qualifying tournaments involving 100,000 players in up to 50 countries. The best players from each nation qualify for the

Proposed removal/replacements of Lamberdars/ Chowkidars arbitrary: Congress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress has taken strong exception to the proposed removal and replacements of Lambardars & Chowkidars undertaken in different districts on the instructions of the LG administration and described it as arbitrary and against settled norms.

Azad said that the tribal communities like Gujjar and Bakerwal are facing the worst conditions, who are being snatched the land allotted for grazing their cattle and herds.

"These communities have been provided land to graze the cattle or herds for decades. But now the government in the name of khaichari encroachment is forcing them to vacate. Where shall they go? It is an inhuman and anti-poor approach which is not acceptable to us at all," Azad added.

Azad said that hundreds of families during the peak of militancy from Chenab and Kashmir valleys were forced to migrate to relatively safer region Jammu and some of the families especially Kashmiri Pandits have sold all their assets back home to buy plots in Jammu.

"They built homes in Jammu to escape militancy. Later, the successive regimes regularised the areas and provided them basic facilities like water, electricity and roads. Now the present government says they are all illegally settled and want to remove them. This can't happen and we will not allow it," he said.

Azad, however, welcomed the statement of Manoj Sinha that the encroached lands will be retrieved from rich people only.

If any leader of any political party or influential person has encroached big chunk of State land take it away immediately without any delay irrespective of their religion and region; but spare the innocent shopkeepers, former CM and DAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad, said, while addressing the gathering at Srinagar on Saturday stating that "Home Minister assured him that common man's livelihood and habitations will be safeguarded."

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Taj Mohiuddin DAP Treasurer, G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, Haji Abdul Rashid General Secretary, Gulzar Wani Zonal President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Peer Bilal Zonal President, Mushtaq Khanday, Mir Altaf, Kaiser Jin, Shafiq Shabnam, Amir Rasool, Arif Maqbool, Wasim Yaqoob, Heena Sultan, Ashiq Irfan, Javid Hakeem, Mohd Syeed Shah, Dr Asif Khanday, Ghulam Nabi Bhatt and Yousef Sultan.

J&K eyes 10-15...

not looking at concretisation in these areas," Singh said.

The Union Territory, he said, is focused on experience tourism offering niche products, including meetings, incentives, conventions and events (MICE), golfing, paragliding, bird watching, river rafting, kayaking and new trekking routes, among others. Jammu and Kashmir's tourism is currently participating in the 3-day Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) 2023, which began on February 2.

The event saw the participation of over 1,250 exhibitors from 50 countries and 30 Indian states/UTs, showcasing their destinations to boost tourism.

Opposition parties running...

fraud-allegation-triggered rout.

Responding to a question on the demand of the Opposition, the information and broadcasting minister said, "The banks, LIC and RBI have already made their statements clear, while the government has nothing to hide."

"The role of the Opposition is very unfortunate. Their response to the speech of the president is condemnable as they repeatedly humiliated her. They should immediately apologise to her," he said.

Thakur said the Opposition was rendered speechless by the "people-friendly" budget and instead of having a discussion on it, they are creating a ruckus.

"They will have to give answers for their behaviour in the people's court," he said.

Briefing the media about the highlights of the budget, he said the Modi government had promised not to allow corruption in the country in 2013-14. "There is not a single allegation of corruption against this government which has been in power for over eight years now."

"Congress has made this country hollow by rampant corruption. We have been running the government with honesty and will take the country to economic prosperity. "We provided free Covid vaccines to the public and food to the poor;" he said, adding the government is utilising every penny collected as taxes for the welfare of the masses.

He said Congress will "definitely feel the pain because they have never imagined such a government which is only thinking about the citizens and taking forward the country".

On PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's criticism of BJP policies on J-K, he said, "Some people have lost ground as they were habitual of family rule and grabbing land. They are out of power and they are frustrated."

Jammu and Kashmir is moving on the path of development under the BJP government and will continue to march ahead. The abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A has led to the return of peace, investment and a large inflow of tourists with national flags fluttering on every house, he said.

Thakur said he was jailed in 2011 on reaching J-K while leading a 'Tiranga yatra' from Kolkata to Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir has changed and is witnessing massive development," he said.

HC rolls out...

of initiative, the Court of Justice Tashi Rabstan today heard the matters of UT of Ladakh virtually, in which the lawyers and government representatives who were petitioners and the respondents in the listed cases appeared on virtual mode from Leh and pleaded their cases.

As many as, six (6) matters of the UT of Ladakh were listed today before the Bench, in which the virtual proceedings were conducted.

In the today's era of technology, conducting the proceedings of a case virtually by connecting different locations on one platform is going to be a big boon in the judicial dispensation. Rolling out such a facility for the people of Ladakh by the High Court is aimed at easing out the sufferings of the litigants and the lawyers who earlier had to physically travel to Jammu and Srinagar for appearing in their respective matters. This will save time besides being financially viable for both parties of the case.

"In future, hearing of the matters of Ladakh will be done virtually by allowing the parties to appear and plead their cases from the UT itself and it will be a regular feature", stated Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar Computers (IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

LG greets people...

compassion, brotherhood and dignity of humanity. His Jayanti is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to create a humane and just society and work for equality and fraternity," the Lt Governor said.

