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1 killed, 14...

officials said.

In a tweet, Union minister Jitendra Singh said, "I am in touch with DC Indu Chib on minute to minute basis. Exact cause and origin of the blast being worked out...too early to draw any definite conclusion."

Lieutenant Governor Sinha said, "My deepest condolences are with family of Jugal Kumar, who lost his life in IED explosion. Directed district administration of Udhampur to render all assistance to kin of victim & those injured. I strongly condemn this heinous terrorist attack. Our security forces will hunt down those responsible."

Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir also condemned the attack.

"Unequivocally condemn the Udhampur attack in which one person lost his life and several others were injured. May the deceased rest in peace. Prayers for speedy recovery of those injured," the National Conference (NC) wrote on its Twitter handle.

NC vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah said he was greatly saddened by the attack and the resultant death and injuries.

"I unreservedly condemn this attack, at the same time I send my condolences to the family of the deceased & prayers for the injured, Abdullah said in a tweet.

My deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayers for a speedy recovery of those injured, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti wrote on Twitter.

Peoples Conference general secretary Imran Reza Ansari said terror should be condemned in one voice.

Today's blast in J&K's Udhampur lead to the loss of a precious life & injuring many others. Government need to curb such attacks by heavy crackdown on culprits to prevent further loss of civilian lives, he added.

ADGP Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh also visited the site of blast at Slathia Chowk Udhampur and inspected the scene with DIG, SSP, NIA officials, CRPF commandant and bomb disposal experts. He also visited the injured at the hospital and spoke to them. Preliminary examination suggests a low intensity IED explosion. Forensic examination and careful and minute scrutiny of the site will reveal more accurate facts. Investigation of the case has commenced.

Meanwhile, on the direction of Y.P Bourney Chairman District Legal Services Authority Udhampur (Pr District & Session Judge), Secretary DLSA, Sub Judge



Secy DLSA, Rajni Sharma (Sub-Judge) enquiring well-being of an injured at District Hospital Udhampur.

condition. She also inquired about the treatment being given to them from hospital authorities. Meanwhile, the Secretary DLSA met Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib who was also on hospital visit. The Secretary DLSA asked the DC to provide best possible medical assistance to blast victims. She also requested Deputy Commissioner to provide financial help to injured and Ex-gratia to the next of the kin killed in the blast.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the Secretary DLSA that best possible treatment and help will be provided to injured and family members of the deceased in the unfortunate incident.

The injured have been identified as Hira Lal, 25, son of Lok Man, resident of Dolpur Rajasthan; Soni Kumar, 46, son of Prem Chand, resident of Kot Patyari; Sahil Kumar, 25, son of Romesh Kumar, resident of Pakhalai; Anil Kumar, 19, son of Sat Paul, resident of Bvalli Nallah; Ashok Kumar, 47, son of Beli Ram, resident of Sarssoo; Rakesh Kumar, 40, son of Khem Raj, resident of Barneem; Amit Kumar, son of Om Parkash, resident of Bant; Bodh Raj, 60, son of Munshi Ram, resident of Gole Mella; Om Parkash, 60, son of Deeku Ram, resident of Hartyan Baletar; Anita, 27, wife of Jugal, resident of Jaganoor; Kaku Ram, 50, son of Dodhi Ram, resident of Kaghote; Raju Ram, 37, son of Dharm Chand, resident of Kuprella; Kuldeep Kumar, 46, son of Dharmu, resident of Kuperella; Varun, 8 month-old, son of Jugal, resident of Donal.

J&K ranks first...

on Wednesday to celebrate 25 crore registrations of unorganized workers. The award was received by Commissioner Secretary Labour & Employment, Sarita Chauhan, along with Labour Commissioner, A R War.

The e-Shram portal has been developed by the Ministry of Labour and

EPFO hosting outreach programme to address grievances of stakeholders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office - Jammu is organising outreach program "Nidhi Aapke Nikat" and "Pension Adalat" on March 10, 2022 in its office premises from 10 AM onwards.

The organisation has invited all the stakeholders to attend the programme for quick disposal of their grievances and/or to register any problems faced by them related to EPFO.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat is a public outreach programme that endeavours to address the problems/grievance of all stakeholders i.e., employees and employers by bringing

them on a common platform and to increase awareness and sensitise them about the new initiatives undertaken in their interest by the organisation (EPFO).

Pension Adalat provides a platform to existing and prospective pensioners for closer interaction with EPFO officers for understanding the provisions of EPS 1995 and getting resolution of their pension related grievances such as non-receipt of pension, Digital life certificates etc.

Giving a further push to BJP Govt's agenda of overall development in J&K, the former Dy Chief Minister along with BJP District President Vinay Gupta, Secretary Vishal Gupta, Secretary BJP

Modi Govt taking special care of J&K, no dearth of funds for UT: Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led BJP Govt at the Centre is taking special care of J&K and there is no dearth of funds for its development.

This was stated by the former Dy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Kavinder Gupta while addressing a gathering during a function organized to kick-start a developmental work in Ward 54 here on Wednesday.

Giving a further push to BJP Govt's agenda of overall development in J&K, the former Dy Chief Minister along with BJP District President Vinay Gupta, Secretary Vishal Gupta, Secretary BJP



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta starting developmental works in Ward 54.

Gandhi Nagar Mandal Kapil Gupta and Corporator Ward 54, Neeraj Lucky Puri kick-started developmental work i.e. blacktopping work of roads in Sector 5, 5A and 8 of Trikuta Nagar estimated to be completed at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh.

This is because of the BJP Govt at the Centre taking special care of J&K and

Kavinder said that for the first time people of this Union Territory have been witnessing developmental works going on at full pace on ground.

This is because of the BJP Govt at the Centre taking special care of J&K and

Meanwhile, a delegation from Zanskar led by Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Stanzin Lakpa called on CEC, LAHDC, Leh Tashi Gualson and submitted a memorandum requesting financial and administrative support for executing the fencing and ground levelling of the land belonging to Zanskar Buddhist Association.

The transfer and handing over the possession of land to the Zanskar Buddhist Association was done in the presence of Vice President LBA Chherring Lakrook, President ZBA Passang Lhawang, and President ZBA Youth Wing Stanzin Tundup. ZBA led by its president Passang Lhawang extended grati-

tuide to the LBA led by Thupstan Chhewang for this generous donation.

ZBA assured that land gifted will be used for the overall welfare of the Buddhist community of Zanskar in particular and Ladakh in general.

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J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina welcomed

funds being no restraint, he said adding that people acknowledge the performance and achievements of PM Modi led Govt and will definitely come forward to accomplish the target of 50-plus by voting for BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Nitin Sharma, Nishim Sharma, Supinder Kour, Rinku Manchanda, Honey Manchanda and Mohinder Kumar, District General Secretary Ankush Gupta, General Secretary Nayan Gupta, District Secretary Narinder Koki, Secretary Kapil Khurana, Nitin Gupta and Nishim Gupta besides locals of the area.

Ravinder Raina, while speaking on the occasion, said that parties like NC, Congress, and PDP took full liberty to enjoy the privileges of the power corridors but did nothing to empower the Pahari community.

He said that it was only the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government that took substantial steps to ensure benefit to

the moment, he said.

Mehta said while committing this offence, one would ensure where his money will go, how it will be hidden, in which country, who will be helping him, what is his infrastructure to escape and become a fugitive and he will have everything ready.

Referring to Section 45 of the PMLA, he argued that it says about offences to be cognisable and non-bailable and starts with notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

My first respectful legal submission is that this ousts Section 436-A, he said.

The solicitor general also referred to one of his notes, which he has placed before the court.

It is submitted that it is trite law that gravity of the offence and the role played by the accused is not an alien concept in matter concerning bail. It is submitted that it is settled law that economic offences constituting a class apart and need to be visited with a different approach in the matter of bail, the note said.

Mehta has said in his note that classification of economic offences in a different class itself is a clear jurisprudential recognition of gravity of the offence being judicially recognised as an extremely relevant factor while considering matters regarding bail.

It is submitted that the gravity of such offences is further accentuated by the fact that economic offences having deep-rooted conspiracies and involving huge loss of public funds need to be viewed seriously and considered as grave offences affecting the economy of the country as a whole and thereby posing serious threat to the financial health of the country, he said.

The arguments in the matter would continue on Thursday.

The Centre had last week defended the PMLA provisions saying if a person knowingly becomes a party or is actually involved in any activity connected with the proceeds of crime, then such an individual is prima facie guilty of the offence of money laundering.

The Centre had earlier told the apex court that 4,850 cases have been taken up for investigation under the PMLA in the last 17 years and proceeds of crime of Rs 98,368 crore were identified and attached under the provision of the law.

The government had told the bench that investigation in these offences was carried out under the PMLA, including 2,883 searches.

The solicitor general had said that out of the Rs 98,368 crore which were identified and attached, proceeds of crime of Rs 55,899 crore have been confirmed by the adjudicating authority.

DCGI's EUA nod...

the entire world, fulfilling our prime minister's vision of 'making in India for the world'. In line with the philosophy of our CEO, Dr Adar C Poonawalla, we are sure that Covovax will play an important role to protect children of our country and world at large against COVID-19 disease and will keep our national flag flying high globally," an official source had quoted Singh as having stated in the application.

The DCGI has already approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28. It has not yet been included in the country's vaccination drive. The DCGI on February 21 granted restricted EUA to Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin for the 12 to less than 18 years age group subject to certain conditions.

Covovax is manufactured by technology transfer from Novavax and is approved by the European Medicines Agency for conditional marketing authorisation and also granted emergency use listing by WHO on December 2017, 2020.

India has been using Bharat Biotech's Covaxin to vaccinate adolescents between 15-18 years.

ZyCov-D is the first vaccine cleared by India's drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 years and above in August last year. Indigenously-developed Covaxin received approval for emergency use in 12 to 18 in December last year.

Army Commander visits...

told them that he had gone out to visit a neighbouring village and did not return. His family suspected that he might have been abducted by terrorists, a claim that was not ruled out by security agencies.

J&K Govt provides...

girl, the DC expressed sympathies with them and also expressed condolence with the bereaved family who lost their young member in the militancy-related incident, the spokesman said. The DC assured the family that all possible support shall be provided to them from the government. The Srinagar SSP also assured the family of action under the law against the criminals.

COVID: 24 new...

10 cases, officials said.

Eleven of the total 22 districts in the Union Territory did not report any new case. There are 312 active cases while the overall recoveries have reached 4,48,286, they said, adding that death toll stands at 4,749.

There were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory. No fresh case was reported since last evening, they added.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported nine fresh Covid cases that took the infection tally to 28,139, officials said.

The number of active cases stands at 98 -- 96 from Leh and two from Kargil, they said. The Union Territory has recorded 228 Covid-related deaths -- 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil, they said, adding that no fatality was reported on Tuesday.

As many as 28 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh, taking the overall recoveries to 27,813, they said.

All the new cases were reported from Leh district, they said.

A total of 626 sample reports were found negative in Ladakh, they said.

Mayor starts work of community hall in Muthi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta on Wednesday started the construction work of a community hall at Mohalla Amit Nagar Muthi Jammu of Ward No. 67. Addressing to media persons, Mayor told that was the long pending demands of the locals of Muthi as there is no proper accommodation in the nearby locality where people especially belonging to poor and downtrodden families who are unable to spend huge expenses on the marriages of their children & other related functions on the Banquet halls.

Dr Jitendra meets public deputations at BJP Central office

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As a part of Bharatiya Janata Party's "Sahyog" programme, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday met a series of public deputations and attended to their issues at party Central office headquarters at 6 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg. Speaking to media persons, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is not only a pleasant home-coming for him whenever he sits at the BJP office, but it is, at the same time, also a reiteration of the commitment to the "Sangathan" organization and the "Karyakarta".

It is always a healthy experience to sit at the BJP office, whenever given a chance, because it also helps to relate the party's agenda and priorities with the common people, he said.

Raina said that the policies of the BJP are being appreciated by one and all, which is the reason that almost daily prominent political personalities are eager to embrace the party to serve the masses in a better way.

He said that the party observes that their support will further strengthen the party and also enable these leaders from remote areas to represent their community's voice at appropriate platforms more effectively.

LTSS welcomes Govt's decision to recognise efforts of all those who fought against emergency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Welcoming recent decision of the administration that efforts of all those who fought against emergency for democracy will be recognised by the State, as done by 12 other states of India, Ramesh Arora former MLC and President Lok Tantra Senani Sangh (LTSS) said that the decision was really a long pending issue resolved by present Government. While addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Ramesh Arora accompanied by other senior leaders Chander Mohan Sharma, Shaminder Kumar former Station Director AIR, Kulbushan Grover, Arun Khanna and Sumit Raina, expressed hope that all survivors of emergency are real heroes who fought for strengthening democracy in the country, which compelled Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister to hold elections and ultimately Janata Party came into power, for the first time as a non-congress Government. "In J&K, several atrocities were committed and many lost their lives while facing brutal torture. It was the darkest period in history of Jammu and Kashmir and rest of the country," he added.

Chander Mohan Sharma said that scariest of all martyrs must get due respect because most of the persons are not present among us. The LTSS leaders also called on SSP Jammu and offered their full assistance in tracing names of all those who participated in struggle during emergency period of 1975 to 1977. President LTSS urged people to provide details of all those persons who were arrested under MISA, DIR etc during agitation launched by Lok Tantra Senani during emergency on 941918516, 9419279418, 9419188008.

LBA gifts two Kanals of land in Leh to Zanskar Buddhist Association

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) gifted a land in Leh measuring approximately two kanals to the Zanskar Buddhist Association (ZBA) and executed the handing over of the possession of land to the ZBA on Tuesday. The transfer and handing over the possession of land to the Zanskar Buddhist Association was done in the presence of Vice President LBA Chherring Lakrook, President ZBA Passang Lhawang, and President ZBA Youth Wing Stanzin Tundup. ZBA led by its president Passang Lhawang extended grati-

tuide to the LBA led by Thupstan Chhewang for this generous donation. ZBA assured that land gifted will be used for the overall welfare of the Buddhist community of Zanskar in particular and Ladakh in general. Meanwhile, a delegation from Zanskar led by Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Stanzin Lakpa called on CEC, LAHDC, Leh Tashi Gualson and submitted a memorandum requesting financial and administrative support for executing the fencing and ground levelling of the land belonging to Zanskar Buddhist Association.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina welcomed

the new entrants into the party fold. Party Vice-President S. Varinderjeet Singh, Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, District Vice-President Baramullah Mohd. Rafiq Mangal, Uri Constituency President Ashiq Rafiq and other senior leaders