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Co-pilot martyred...

district this afternoon while on a routine mission to evacuate an ailing soldier from a forward post," Srinagar-based defence spokesman Col Emron Musavi said.

He said the helicopter lost communication with the forward post at Gujran in Baraub before airlifting the trooper.

The slain co-pilot has been identified as Major Sankalp Yadav (29), while the injured pilot, a Lieutenant Colonel-rank officer, was rescued from the crash site and rushed to the Command Hospital in Udhampur:

"The pilots were responding to a medical emergency of the force. I am pained beyond words and I salute the dedication and bravery of the pilots who undertake such difficult evacuation operations," BSF Inspector General (Kashmir Frontier) Raja Babu Singh said.

Officials said immediately after the 'Cheetah' crashed, the Army launched a rescue operation and pressed into service an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and soldiers on foot.

The two pilots were evacuated but Major Yadav was declared dead upon arrival at the hospital.

"Major Yadav was commissioned into the army in 2015 and he hailed from Jaipur, Rajasthan. He is survived by his father," the spokesman said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi condoled the demise of Major Yadav. "I salute the courage and supreme sacrifice of our braveheart Army officer Maj Sankalp Yadav who laid down his life in the line of duty in Gurez sector. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief. I wish for speedy recovery of the injured," Sinha said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi also saluted the braveheart who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in Gurez Sector. He also offered his deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

NIA files supplementary...

terrorists in this case in January this year.

Parvaiz is a key ISIS operative and a close associate of charge-sheeted accused Umar Nisar, the NIA official said.

Parvaiz was also associated with ISIS operatives based in Afghanistan and Pakistan and was actively involved in recruitment for ISIS, the official said.

After the arrest of Umar Nisar, he was appointed as head of ISIS activities in India and was handling media as well as ground activities of ISIS, the NIA official said. He was actively disseminating ISIS propaganda materials through various online platforms, the official said.

Sofi was also a close associate of previously charge-sheeted accused Umar Nisar and Jufri Jawhar Damudi, the NIA official said.

Sofi was involved in content editing and poster creation for ISIS propaganda magazine, 'Voice of Hind', and had also carried out recce of Hindu temples, government buildings and police stations to carry out subversive acts, the NIA official said, adding that further investigation in the case was underway.

Modi meets mother...

Modi's mother lives with his younger brother.

The prime minister reached there around 9 pm, had dinner with her and took her blessings, a BJP release said.

The party also released a photo of Modi having dinner with Hiraba.

The prime minister always makes it a point to visit his mother whenever he comes to Ahmedabad.



If demands not...

"They will get it though violence if not through a fight," he said.

"They cannot be muzzled. They know how to get their demands met. If these demands are not met, they would again resume their agitation," he said referring to the year-long stir against the Centre's farm laws.

Malik, who had earlier criticised the Centre and PM Narendra Modi over the handling of the farmers' agitation, said there was always a chance that he will get a "call from Delhi" if he talks about farmers.

"I live in Delhi in a one-and-half room house, that is why I could mess ('panga le saka') with Modi over the farmers' issue," the Governor said.

"I don't have any enmity with the Centre but I can leave my post for the farmers," he said.

Malik repeated his earlier remark, saying when he met the PM over the farmers' issue in the past, they had a fight in just five minutes.

"I told him that the Sikhs and Jats do not forget. You must send them with something. They had remembered Indira (Gandhi) as well," he said in an apparent reference to the former PM's assassination.

Malik was in Jodhpur to attend a book release by the Marwar Jat Mahasabha.

He earlier too has made remarks against the PM and the Centre over the farmers' issue. At an event in Haryana earlier this month, he had claimed that his friends advised him not to criticise the BJP government as he could be made the President or Vice President if he kept quiet. Malik had then asserted that he "doesn't care about these positions". In January, he had claimed that when he went to meet the prime minister on the issue of farmers, Modi was "arrogant" and had a fight with him within five minutes.

India, China hold...

people familiar with the dialogue said.

The main focus of the talks is expected to be the completion of the stalled disengagement process in the Hot Springs (Patrolling Point-15) areas.

The Indian delegation at the talks is being led by Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, the newly-appointed Commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps.

The Indian side is also expected to insist on disengagement as soon as possible in all the remaining friction points including resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

The 14th round of talks had taken place on January 12 and did not result in any significant headway in resolving the row in remaining friction points.

"The two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue via military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the

remaining issues at the earliest," a joint statement issued after the 14th round of talks said.

DB directs for...

their lapses which many a times they deliberately make to confer wrongful advantage on the persons accused of offences under NDSP Act and their handlers," DB said, adding, "We have invariably seen that whenever huge quantity of contraband is recovered from a person traveling in a vehicle, it is the driver or one or two carriers with him who are booked and prosecuted, but no effort is made by the police to find out the origin from where the contraband has emanated and the destination where it was supposed to be delivered. In this way, we only try to prosecute the carriers and not the handlers of these carriers who are responsible to run the trade in an organized manner."

DB further directed that Department of Home, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police J&K and Director General Prosecution shall do well to find out in how many cases an effort has been made by the police to find out origin and the destination of the contraband seized while in transit. DB further observed that we are sure that an honest enquiry, if any made, in this regard would reveal some sort of connivance between some of the police officers/officials and the drug mafia. "In instant case, Enquiry Officer; however, has, as expected, given clean chit to the police, but we leave it to the wisdom of authorities who are responsible to maintain law and order to look into this aspect with some more seriousness. Hoping that the respondents are alive to the alarming situation created by free flow of drugs throughout the Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, we leave it to them to take appropriate corrective and remedial measures and wish not to say anything more. After all, responsibility to maintain law and order lies with the executive and we, as Courts, are only obligated to apply law as it is," the Court observed and directed Registry to send a copy of judgment to Secretary to Govt., Home Department, Director General of Police, Secretary to Govt., Law Department and Director General Prosecution.

This significant judgment has been passed in a appeal filed by UT aggrieved by the judgment of acquittal dated December 26, 2013 recorded by the Principal Sessions Judge, Jammu whereby the respondents have been acquitted of the charges under Sections 8/20/60 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985, and has prayed for leave to appeal.

As per prosecution, on October 28, 2011 a party from Police Station Nagrota, while on patrolling duty at Bantalab, Nagrota, stopped a vehicle Xylo bearing registration No JK03C-4188, at about 5 PM, which was coming from Srinagar. Two passengers along with a driver were travelling in vehicle. The driver disclosed his name as Mohd Amin, whereas two passengers were identified as Ashok Kumar and Deepak Kumar. On search of vehicle, Charas like substance wrapped in a plastic-bag was recovered. None of them account for the possession and accordingly, a docket was sent to Police Station through constable Murad Ali, whereupon FIR No. 257/2011 for commission of offences under Sections 8/20/60 of NDPS Act was registered against respondents and investigation was set in motion. During the course of investigation, the police seized the vehicle. The Charas recovered was weighed and it was found that Ashok Kumar and Deepak Kumar were carrying 4 Kg and 2 Kg Charas respectively, whereas driver Mohd Amin was found carrying 4 Kg and 500 gm Charas which they had concealed in dickey of the vehicle. The sample of 100 gm each was taken and sent for chemical examination and as per report of the chemical examiner, seized item was confirmed as Charas.

DB after hearing both the sides observed that needless to point out that with a view to bring home charge under NDPS Act, more particularly under the Sections with which the respondents had been charge-sheeted, the recovery of contraband from them is a sine quo non. The next important step is to seal the contraband in a manner that its safety is not compromised in any manner. It is for Investigating officer to further ensure that the seized contraband which is properly sealed reaches safely before the FSL for chemical examination and that there is no room or scope for any opportunity to anybody to tamper with the seized contraband. The examination of seized material by the FSL follows steps like proper seizure of the contraband and sealing, picking up of the samples of required quantity from the seized item, re-sealing them in presence of Executive Magistrate and then sending them to the FSL without any further waste of time. "However, where distance between the place of occurrence/Police Station from the FSL is too long that it is necessary to keep the samples taken from the seized contraband in safe custody, in such situation, the Investigating Officer must deposit the seized contraband as well as samples after entering them in Malkhana register both at the time of deposit and at time of its exist from the Malkhana. These are salient steps which are required to be followed in any investigation in the cases involving the seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. As is rightly observed by the trial Court that in the instant case, the recovery of the contraband was made on spot. The seizure memo was prepared by the SHO of Police Station, Nagtora, whereas Abdul Rashid, ASI and Murad Ali were marginal witnesses of the said memo. The seizure memo was further attested by the SDPO. It is from the seized contraband, three samples of charas weighing 100 gms each were taken and sealed separately as A, B and C. As is apparent from the evidence on record, PW Murad Ali has deposed that the polythene bags containing contraband were recovered from the respondents and were in their hands at the time of recovery. Interestingly, the Public Prosecutor, who was conducting the prosecution, did not put this seizure memo to the witness, resultantlly PW Murad Ali neither identified his signatures on the seizure memo, nor proved its contents. On one hand, this witness would state that the Charas was recovered from the vehicle and on the other hand, he would state that it was in the hands of the respondents. He has even gone to the extent of denying having any knowledge about the occurrence and has stated that it was only PW Abdul Rashid, ASI who told him that the Charas had been recovered from the respondents. He further claims in his statement that all the papers were signed in the police station," the Court observed.

DB further observed that having noticed the aforesaid serious flaws in the investigation and complete inapt handling of prosecution by the applicant/appellant, this Court vide its order dated 27.11.2019 directed the Secretary to the Government, Home Department of UT of Jammu and Kashmir to send a list of three senior officers out of which this Court may entrust the enquiry to anyone of them. The enquiry was directed to find out the lapses in the investigation and the connivance, if any, of the police with the drug mafia. From the list of officers sent by the Home Department, this Court vide order dated 13.12.2019 appointed one Sayed Ahfadul Mujtaba to conduct an enquiry into the whole matter and to pin point the guilt of the concerned officers/officials. The Enquiry Officer has submitted the enquiry report. The Enquiry Officer has given clean chit to the police insofar as the apprehension of this Court of the police acting in connivance with drug mafia is concerned. The Enquiry Officer; however, has concluded that the prosecution failed to prove its case before the Court because of inexperience and lack of professional and technical know-how required for investigation of a case under NDSP Act. The Enquiry Officer too has concluded that failure of the PP, who conducted the prosecution case in a slip-shod manner; has also contributed in failure of case before the

Court of law.

Army Commander reviews...

and appreciated the recent success in operations in which the troops eliminated some hard-core terrorists, including those from Pakistan, with minimal collateral damage and no loss of any civilian life, the spokesman said.

The Army commander reiterated the credo of use of minimum force and just conduct by the soldiers involved in counter-terrorist operations.

He appreciated the efforts aimed at breaking the cycle of violence for sustainable peace and stability in Kashmir; Col Musavi said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi was briefed by GOC Chinar Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey at its headquarters here on the prevalent security situation and measures instituted to counter adversaries' design.

He interacted with the senior officers of Chinar Corps and lauded the strong counter-infiltration grid along the Line of Control.

For the hinterland, the Army commander complimented Chinar Corps for the conduct of just operations and was appreciative of the excellent soldier-citizen connect activities, which have resulted in overall reduction in the terrorist recruitment, the spokesman said.

He also commended Chinar Corps for various activities being conducted with citizens in fields of education, sports, culture and skilling, he said.

11 police personnel...

Special Security Force, Rules, 2020, sanction is hereby accorded to deputation of eleven police personnel to Special Security Force(SSF). They include Inspector Shariq Majeed, Inspector Sandeep Singh, SI Kashmir Singh, HC(M) Raman Kumar, Sgct (Opr) Mohammad Akseer, Sgct Raj Kumar SgCt Prashant Badyaal, Constable Ravi Kumar, Constable Sanjay Kumar, Constable Rakesh Kumar and Foil (cook) Suresh Kumar," reads an order issued by R.K Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

It added six police personnel have been repatriated from Special Security Force (SSF). They include HC(M) Manzoor Ahmad, Sgct. Manawar Hussain, Sgct. Darshan Singh, Sgct (Opr) Prasandeep Shan, Constable Ashiq Hussain and Constable Sheikh Sajad.

CBSE term-II board...

exams commence from April 26 for both classes.

While releasing the date sheets for term-II exams, the Board said on Friday that it has given a considerable gap between two exams keeping in mind that the schools were closed due to the pandemic.

"As the schools were closed due to pandemic which has led to learning losses, therefore, more gap has been given between the two examinations in almost all the subjects in both the classes," it said.

It also said that other competitive examinations including JEE-Main have been taken care of while preparing the date sheet.

"These date sheets have been prepared by avoiding nearly 35,000 subject combinations to ensure that no two subject examinations of a student fall on the same date," it said.

As many as 22 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh, taking the overall recoveries in the Union Territory to 27,850, officials said.

All the new cases were reported from Leh, they said, adding that a total of 665 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative.

J&K: Fee Regulation...

As a temporary measure and till such time that a final decision is taken, school managements shall hike the transportation fees that was being paid by the students who were availing the transport facility in October 2019 in the winter zone and in February 2020 in the summer zone by 12 per cent, it said.

It was also resolved that no private school shall seek any undertaking from parents or students for advance tuition fees and transportation fees, "the practice being illegal and shall not be allowed," the order stated.

It directed that the hike will be operative from the date of reopening of schools.

11 IPS officers...

have been promoted to the grade of Super Time Scale-(ii)-IG (Level-14 , the Pay Matrix), with effect from January 1, 2022, with drawl of officiating pay from the aforesaid date.

IPS officers of 2008 batch Tejinder Singh, Abdul Jabbar and Udayabhaskar Billa have been promoted to the grade of Super Time Scale-(i) DIG (Level-13A in the Pay Matrix) with effect from January 1, 2022.

Officers of 2009 batch Intiaz Ismail Parray, Shailendra Kumar Mishra and Rahul Malik have been placed in the Selection Grads of IPS (Level-13 in the Pay Matrix) with effect from January 1, 2022.

Two Finance Directors...

as Director Finance, Animal & Sheep Division, Husbandry Department. Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner; (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department.

33 JKAS officers...

of Rs. 15600-39100 with grade pay of Rs.7600 [now revised to Level 12 (78800-209200)] of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service with effect from January 1, 2022, in favour of the 33 JKAS officers," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary GAD.

They include Dilshada Akhter, Nighat Alam, Waseem Raja, Minakshi Vaid, Supriya Kohli, Seema Bharti, Mohammad Rashid, Chander Parkash, Yar Ali Khan, Sonam Chosjar, Mehraj-ud-din Shah, Girdhari Lal, Samir Ahmad Jan, Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Afaq Ahmed, Surinder Paul Sharma, Syed Shah nawaz, Mir Nasrool Hilal Jeri, Sudhir Bali, Rishi Kumar Sharma, Ajaz Qesar Malik, Sandeep Seointra, Kaiser Ahmad Bhawani, Gulam Mohd, Varunjeet Charak, Pritam Lal Thapa, Alyaz Ahmad Naisroo, Kishore Singh, Naresh Kumar, Fareed Ahmad Kohli, Suhail Ahmad, Mita Kumari, Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary, Rigzin Spalgon, Gulzar Ahmad, Rafiq Ahmad Lone, Jasmeet Singh, Shahcena Khan, Saleem Beigh, Babu Ram Tandon, Pawan Kumar, Anshuman Singh, Manpreet Kour.

Meanwhile, the government, in another order, promoted four Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers to the Special Scale.

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of four Selection Grade officers to the Special Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service in pay level 13 (Rs. 123100-215900), with effect from February 17, 2022," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

The JKAS officer who have been promoted to Special Scale include Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Rajinder Singh, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha and Rajesh Sharma.

Consequently, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha and Rajesh Sharma have been designated as Special Secretaries in the respective departments.

First ever shipment of GI certified Kashmiri hand-knotted silk carpets flagged off to Europe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), Ranjan Prakash Thakur, on Friday flagged off the first ever shipment of GI certified Kashmiri Hand knotted silk Carpets to Europe from New Delhi.

Director, Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director, Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad Mir, Chairman, Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC), Umar Hameed and President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I), Sheikh Aashiq and other representatives from Carpet Trade and Industry were present on the occasion.

It is pertinent to mention here that pursuant to registration of Kashmiri Hand knotted Carpets under Geographical Indication of

Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in 2016, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, introduced QR Code based mechanism, first of its kind in the world, for certification of Hand knotted Carpets manufactured in the UT.

By virtue of this mechanism, the buyer can check and verify requisite details of a carpet, in respect of its genuineness and authenticity with other related parameters, in real time, with the help of Smartphone before purchasing the same.

The QR code along with registered GI Logo printed on secured fusion label, possessing requisite covert and overt information, is fixed on the carpet after conducting necessary physical inspection/testing of different parameters. This is a special label which cannot be copied or misused. Besides, there is a unique

alpha numerical code printed on each label for verification of details of a particular carpet on www.iietsrinagarcarpet-gi.org, if QR scanning fails at any point of time.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, formally launched the QR Code mechanism for certification of Kashmiri Carpets and there was an overwhelming appreciation from all the stakeholders for such an innovative method of certification of Carpets. Since then, the stakeholders in large numbers are approaching the Institute to get their carpets certified/tagged. Reportedly, the concerned stakeholders/users have to remain in waiting for getting their carpets tagged/labeled due to unprecedented demand.

This historic initiative is expected to go a long way in authorizing the overall qual-

ity of Hand knotted Carpets which in turn, certainly, will boost the exports of carpet Industry in the International market.

Meanwhile, the Handicraft and Handloom Department J&K in association with Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) held a seminar at Le Meridian New Delhi today which was followed by an interactive session with stakeholders and media fraternity.

The main objective of this event was to make people aware about Geographical Indications (GI) Tagged Carpets and provide them on the spot demonstration of GI labelling on Carpets.

The stakeholders appreciated this initiative of the government which is expected to increase the demand of genuine Kashmiri Carpets throughout the World as there will be no scope of cheating or any fraud to the customer.

J&K records 21 fresh COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday logged 21 new Covid cases, 12 from the Jammu division and nine from the Kashmir Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 453403.

Moreover, 33 more COVID patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 22from Jammu Division and 11 from Kashmir Division.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 453403 positive cases, 281are Active Positive (119in Jammu Division and 162in Kashmir Division), 448373 have recovered and 4749 have died; 2326 in Jammu division and 2423in Kashmir division.

Till date 6213274 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 33561persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 281 in isolation and 457467 in home surveillance. Besides, 5717216 persons have completed their surveillance period.

J&K on path of 'Self-Sufficiency' in Power Sector: Johal



DDC Sarabjit Singh Johal inaugurating 100 KV power transformer in village Kaeson.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARHI: District Development Council (DDC) Ramgarh-B member; Sardar Sarabjit Singh Johal has asserted that Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is smoothly and steadily treading the path towards self sufficiency in power sector. He stated this while addressing a gathering during a function in which he inaugurated 100 KV power transformer in village Kaeson. Prominent among others present on the occasion were District Minority General Secretary Sardar Hazara Singh, Yuva Morecha Mandal President Gurmeet

Choudhary, Naib Sarpanch Sunil Chaudhary, Arjun Singh, Avatar Singh, Captain Harnam Singh, Subedar Jagtar Singh, Lambardar Darshan Singh and Surinder Pal Singh.

DDC member; Sarabjit Singh Johal said that the aforesaid transformer was a long pending demand of the people of the area that has been met today thus providing respite so far as their power woes are concerned. He said that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has enormous power potential especially for the hydroelectric power projects. The DDC member

lamented that during the seven decades of independence successive regimes failed to substantially taping the power potential of the erstwhile State of J&K. He said that out of 20,000 MW power potential just a mere 3500 MW had been harnessed in J&K. However in the last two years alone, about 3000 MW capacity projects have been revived and subsequently put on track for operationalization.

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TEACHERS REQUIRED	
PGT (05 YEAR EXP.)	S.Ct.: (Post Graduation with B.Ed.) PHE: For Class 11th & 12th B.Ed/M.Ed/ MA in Physical Education
FEMALE URDU TEACHER	
NURSERY TRAINED TEACHER	
Candidates can submit their credentials at the school office before 21-03-2022. or E-mail at: dewandevischool@gmail.com <small>The Management's Decision will be final for selection.</small>	