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Atmosphere conducive for..

and offices. These include 333 government buildings, 265 private buildings, including those of Kashmiri Pandits, 71 pieces of agricultural land, 26 industrial units or factories, 30 hotels, eight orchards, two cinema halls, a school and a hospital.

Singh said the force has been transferred 524 kanals of land for creating its camps at 10 locations in Jammu and Kashmir:

The administration of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir pays rent to owners in case of private properties, a senior CRPF officer said.

"If they (Kashmiri Pandits) come to claim their properties held by us, we have no objections. We will immediately seek another place from the government," the DG said.

Asked if the about 3.25 lakh personnel strong force will hold an exclusive screening of "The Kashmir Files" movie for its staff, Singh said the CRPF has not taken a call on this as of now.

"Any film or drama that has motivational or inspirational content should be watched. We are a big force that is spread across...we will have to make arrangements. We will think about it," he said.

"The Kashmir Files" is a Bollywood film based on the atrocities against Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.

The CRPF will hold its 83rd Raising Day on March 19 in Jammu where Union Home Minister Amit Shah will take the salute of the ceremonial parade and also address troops.

The minister will subsequently chair a multi-agency security meeting on various operations being conducted by them in the Union Territory.

‘Periodic spurt in..

addressing a press conference ahead of the 83rd Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to be celebrated on March 19 in Jammu.

On Wednesday, three terrorists have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir and some-time back a foreign terrorist was killed, he said.

In the case of the killing of an off-duty CRPF jawan in Kashmir, the security forces got into quick action and have arrested the attacker, he said.

"So, it is a periodic thing...but we undertake quick and immediate action to control such incidents," the DG said.

He added that these incidents are "not totally controlled by internal terrorists but from across the border too."

"Instructions for targeting someone in Jammu and Kashmir come from foreign soil too...there are intelligence inputs too. But the situation is not out of hand (in J&K)," Singh said.

He said that after the abrogation of Article 370 that accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, incidents of stone pelting have come down to "nil" now and the number of foreign terrorists operating in Kashmir Valley too is very less.

According to CRPF data, a total of 175 terrorists have been killed by it in the past year in Jammu and Kashmir, 183 have been apprehended and two have surrendered. Three CRPF personnel were killed while 61 injured between March 2021 and March 16 this year.

The DG also said that they are looking at a "truck scanner" like gadget, called the multi-mode passive detection system, to detect hidden arms and ammunition in large vehicles.

There have been incidents where armed terrorists hiding in trucks and four-wheelers have been intercepted at check-posts on roads in Jammu and Kashmir.

CRPF teams will go and see these technologies and gadgets in the US and some other places where they are working on the ground and if found efficient, the force will procure them, Singh said.

Govt reconstitutes Shri..

Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) re-constitute the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and nominate the eight persons as its Members, for a period of three years with immediate effect," reads the notification.

As per notification, eight members include Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj, Kul Bushan Ahuja, Dr. Neelam Sareen, Dr. Ashok Bhan IPS (Retd.), Baleshwar Rai IAS (Retd.), K.K Sharma, Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta.

Srinagar encounter 15...

Srinagar, three terrorists were neutralised. As per the standard operating procedure (SOP), the site was being cleared to ensure the safety of citizens.

Signboards were also placed around the site of the encounter to dissuade citizens from approaching the site prior to sanitisation with regard to any left-over explosive from the terrorists, a police official said.

He said, However, a large unruly mob assembled from adjacent areas of Shankerpora Wanabal carrying lathis and stones in their hands and pelted stones on the deployed nafri (personnel) .

In order to disperse the mob, smoke canister shells were used as per the SOPs, the official said.

He said a case was registered and 15 identified persons were arrested.

Srinagar Police requests people to stay away from encounter sites to ensure their safety, keeping in view the likelihood of the left-over explosives from the terrorists, the official said.

Congress crisis: Azad...

"collective leadership" at its meeting here on Wednesday.

Deputy Leader of the Congress in Rajya Sabha and another G-23 leader Anand Sharma also joined Hooda at Azad's residence where they discussed the outcome of his meeting with Rahul Gandhi.

Later in the evening, Sibal also met Azad at the latter's residence.

Hooda, according to sources, told Gandhi that G-23 leaders were not hankering for any position but only seeking to strengthen the party.

Amid calls by a section of Gandhi family loyalists for action against Kapil Sibal, who recently said the Gandhis should step aside and pave the way for someone else to take over the reins of the party, Hooda is learnt to have conveyed to Rahul Gandhi that such a step will be unacceptable to the grouping as the dissident leader had only spoken about strengthening the Congress.

T S Singh Deo, a minister in Chhattisgarh, was the latest Congress leader to demand action against Sibal on Thursday for speaking against the party leadership.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, too, deprecated leaders voicing their grievances in public. "Sonia Gandhi listens to everyone and grievances, if any, should be raised within the party and not in public," he said.

Sources in the Congress said the party leadership wants to resolve the differences with the G-23 and is reaching out to its leaders. It is learnt to have deputed some senior leaders for parleys with the dissenting group to resolve the differences.

The G-23 has been persistently seeking a restructuring of the organisation since it first wrote to Sonia Gandhi in 2020 about it after of a string of electoral losses and the party's diminishing clout.

The grouping had, in a statement on Wednesday, said the "only way forward for the Congress was to adopt a model of inclusive and collective leadership and decision

making at all levels."

They insisted they want to strengthen the Congress and "not undermine it in any way."

Sources in the G-23 said the leaders discussed some "concrete proposals", the details of which were not immediately known, to strengthen the Congress. These proposals may be considered when Azad, once a Gandhi family loyalist, meets the Congress president.

Never lose sight...

services trainees but your batch is special because you have done it in the year when India completes 75 years of Independence. When the country completes 100 years of its Independence you will be in service," he said.

Asking trainee officers to never let go of their sense of service and duty, Modi said they should keep asking themselves throughout their careers whether they are losing these two qualities.

"The sense of authority and power harms both individuals and institutions," he said.

The prime minister also asked the trainee officers to always bear in mind that the country has to take the motto of reform, perform and transform to the next level.

"When you go in the field you should not hesitate in taking a decision that you think might make a difference in the life of the man standing on the lowermost rung of the social ladder," the prime minister said.

He also advised them not to treat the data contained in the files brought to them when they go out in the field as just figures, saying they are related to individuals and their dreams.

"Try to understand the rationale behind a system in relation to the time in which it was established. When you understand the logic behind a system you can come up with permanent solutions," Modi said.

"You are going to be part of a positive social change. So try to develop leadership quality and a team spirit. It is mandatory for bringing about any major change," he said. Before starting his address Modi inaugurated a new sports complex at the Academy besides dedicating to the nation a revamped Happy Valley Outdoor Complex.

ACB files charge...

conducted in the premises/residential houses of Pranav Ganditra. In furtherance of investigation in the above case, incriminating documents revealed that Pranav Gandotra was found to have raised huge properties both movable as well as Immovable worth crores of rupees in his own name and in name of his family members which are disproportionate to his known source of income. He also possesses Luxurious house hold items, costly electronics gadgets etc. Some of the assets raised by the suspect officer include - 1) House No. 60/3 Channi Himmat worth in lakhs; 2) Flat No. 1203 Block-A and Flat No. 1204 Block-A worth Rs 83 lakhs; 3) Shop at Ashrabad Sidhra, Jammu acquired in year 2017 on rent basis @ 5000/- per month; 4) G.T. Road Restaurant in Palm Island Mall at Canal road Jammu; 5) Number of costly and luxurious vehicles which include a) i10 JK02BB-6968, b) Innova Crysta JK02BT-8691, c) Toyota Fortuner JK02BS-8809, d) Toyota Fortuner JMUBQ-6700 (Temp) e) Chevrolet Cruze JK02AW-0001, f) Mahindra XUV 500 JK02BQ-8954, g) Mercedes Benz PB65AG(T)-3465 and h) Hyundai Verna JK02AJ-0002, 6) Gold/diamond ornaments weighing 4 Kg 361.49 gms and Silver articles with utensils weighing 11 Kg 389 gms and Insurance policies worth more than 41 laes.

Investigation further revealed accused in consequence of his indulgence in corrupt and illegal practices and having taken advantages of his lucrative posting, has acquired huge assets, both moveable/immovable by investing proceedings of his ill gotten money in such properties and the value of the assets held by the accused in his name and in the name of family members is Rs.3,58,91,126/- which is disproportionate to his known source of income. The allegations of raising disproportionate assets by the accused have been fully substantiated. After completing the investigation of case, sanction for launching of prosecution of the accused was also obtained from the competent authority. Anti-Corruption Bureau produced charge sheet before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Jammu.

The next date of hearing in the case has been fixed for April, 19, 2022.

Tracking OGWs of...

central Kashmir district.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police officer said only those who have family history of terrorism, stone-pelting background and those who come under the influence of online propaganda pick up arms.

He said that families whose children go missing have great faith in police as they directly approach a police station for lodging missing reports and work jointly with police to bring back misguided youths.

In many cases, youths join back their families. Those who don't come back, we give them the chance, even in live encounters, to surrender, he said.

The IGP said it was not that every youth in the valley was joining the ranks of terrorists. "Those who have some background like someone in the family has been a terrorist, or has been killed, or some relative is a terrorist, or someone has involvement in stone pelting, and those who come under the influence of online propaganda pick up arms. It is not that every youth picks up arms, Kumar said.

To a question on the measures taken for the security of forces personnel going on leave in the wake of recent attacks on some of them, Kumar said the revised do's and don'ts and standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been issued to the police, CRPF and Army personnel intending to visit home on leave. "These SOPs are being reviewed from time to time, he said.

Jammu-Poonch railway...

estimated cost of Rs 22,771 crore.

This was the second time the central government has shelved the project connecting important towns such as Akhnour, Sunderbani and Nowshera.

Earlier, the Union government had shelved the project in January 2014.

According to the RTI responses provided by Director of Projects and Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of Railway Board Pankaj Kumar on March 7 and 15, the survey for the new railway line between Jammu and Poonch having a length of 223 km was completed in 2017-18 but the project could not be taken forward for being "financially unviable".

He said the survey has been shelved with the approval of the Railway Board.

In response to a query of the applicant regarding any other proposal as on date pending with the Ministry of Railways for providing and laying rail line between Jammu and Poonch, the Railway Board replied in the negative and said presently there is no proposal under consideration for this line .

There has been a long standing demand by people for a railway line to connect Jammu with the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri. The people became hopeful the survey was taken up in 2008 and declared as a national project in March 2012.

Govt issues final...

of committing criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act and shall be punishable under the said Act. Moreover, non-submission of the Property Returns will result in denial of the vigilance clearance of such employees."

The matter, the government said, was again considered in the General Administration Department and it has been decided that a last and final opportunity may be granted to these defaulting employees who have failed to submit their Property Returns within the stipulated timeline.

"Thereafter, no more opportunity shall be granted and action as mentioned above shall be initiated against the defaulters," the notification reads.

"Accordingly, the submission of Property Returns by the defaulting employees shall be allowed through online mode on the Property Returns System (PRS Portal) from March 22 to 28, 2022."

All those employees who had registered themselves on the portal but not submitted their Property Returns shall submit the same, besides, the unregistered employees shall get themselves registered on the Portal and subsequently submit their Property Returns within the stipulated period.

The DDOs of Corporations/PSUs have been also directed to register the employees working under their establishment using 'DDO Registration' option on Property Returns Portal, using their existing DDO credentials, so that the employees get registered and are able to file their Annual Property Returns through PRS portal.

"However, it has been observed that various Corporations/PSUs have not been able to get their employees registered on the Portal due to non-availability of either CPIS number or DDO code etc.," it said.

"The matter has been considered and it has been decided that all such Corporations/PSUs, who have not been able to register on the Portal, shall be facilitated by the General Administration Department in getting their DDOs/Employees registered on the PRS Portal and subsequent filing of their Property Returns."

Kashmir's turning point...

Prem Nath Bhatt, a nationalist journalist, Judge Neel Kanth Ganjoo had ordered death sentence to JKLF founder Maqbool Bhatt and Lassa Kaul, Doordarshan Director. All these years none of these killers were put on trial and it was only after the Modi Government took over that a serious trial has been initiated against Yasin Malik who, among other things, was guilty of having shot dead Wing Commander Ravi Khanna in full daylight in the presence of everybody, he said.

In response to Mehbooba Mufti's allegation that the Government of India at that time did not do enough to prevent exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, Dr Jitendra Singh exclaimed , " But was it not her father who was the Home Minister of India at that time!" He also suggested that the decision to release dreaded terrorists like Masood Azhar from jail to ensure the safe release of Mufti Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya could have played a role in the attack on Kashmiri Pandits.

Dr Jitendra Singh also defended the then Governor Jagmohan. Kerala Congress had tweeted that Jagmohan had facilitated the exodus of Pandits. "Those who say today that Jagmohan triggered that exodus either don't wish to read or remember history, or find it convenient to forget. In the early 1990s also, the Congress party had started this same propaganda that Jagmohan had deliberately asked the KPs to move out of Kashmir valley and secure free plots of land in Jammu and Delhi. How could somebody be so insensitive to say that a person left his home by his free will?" he asked.

Kerala Congress and other opposition voices had alleged that the BJP's support to The Kashmir Files was only to further its divisive and communal agenda. Dr Singh, however, rebutted the charge that his party had done nothing to rehabilitate the Pandits who became refugees in their own country. "When they came to Jammu, it was BJP stalwarts like LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi who struggled and took steps and finally ensured seats in higher education institutions in Maharashtra and other places for the wards of the displaced people," said the minister.

Speaking about the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits, Dr Singh recalled how as a young doctor in Jammu, he had seen first hand the pitiable condition of the homeless members of the community.

"The most agonising part was their first summer in Jammu and in Delhi in 1990 witnessed by me and other medicos. They were not used to spending summers outside the Valley and we had a spate of heat strokes. I was there. As young medicos, we would literally pick up heat-struck KPs and put them on slabs of ice. The camps were not properly done up because they were erected in haste. They were in the most unhygienic conditions. Films were made by showing drains flowing around the kitchen area. So that was the inhuman condition. But hats off, they have a remarkable instinct of survival; they came out of that struggle," he said.

The film found resonance on the floor of Parliament too where Nationalist Congress Party leader Supriya Sule asked what the government had done for the KPs in the past 7 years. "If a child is malnourished, the mother will feed him/her in 7 years and make him/her healthy," she said.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted, "What have you done for the rehabilitation of KPs in 8 years? When you could do nothing you started showing them films." Dr Jitendra Singh rebutted the charges. "They might have forgotten but we have an elephant's memory. We have been struggling all this while to set the record straight," he said. "A film like The Kashmir Files or for that matter any other film should be welcomed for putting the record straight because for many years distortion of history has been allowed by many people."

IG BSF Jammu...

reviewed the overall deployment and domination plan of the force.

He held discussions with battalion commanders concerned on the ground and reviewed the security situation, the spokesperson said.

He said Boora chaired Sainik Sammelan at Sector Headquarter BSF Rajouri and had tea with the jawans. The IG BSF expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all ranks for their professional commitment towards the line of duty while dealing with several challenges and boosted the spirit of the jawans, the spokesperson said.

Missing Indian national...

who is not mentally sound, across the border, indicating that he might have crossed the LoC into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) inadvertently.

Accordingly, the army cross checked the details with the local police which confirmed the disappearance of Javed from his residence. The individual was repatriated by Pakistan and was handed over to Indian army in presence of local police and civil officials at Chaka Da Bagh crossing point on the LoC in Poonch, the officials said. They said he is being handed over to his family after completion of legal formalities.

J&K records 12...

the highest of four cases, officials said.

Fourteen of the total 22 districts did not report any fresh cases.

There are 156 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients is 4,48,599, officials said. The death toll due to the pandemic stands at 4,750. There are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since Wednesday evening.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported two new coronavirus cases, continuing with the downward trend of new infections, officials said.

The number of active cases in the union territory dropped to 66 with six more patients in Leh being cured of the infection, they said. According to the officials, there was no Covid-related death in the region, which has so far recorded a total of 228 fatalities linked to the pandemic since its outbreak. The UT has so far reported 28,192 cases. Of the total fatalities, Leh district accounts for the highest 168 deaths among 22,917 cases, followed by 60 in Kargil which had recorded a total of 5,275 cases. The officials said the two fresh cases were reported in Leh, taking the number of active cases in the district to 64. Kargil, on the other hand, has two active COVID-19 cases.

The total number of recovered patients now stands at 27,898, they said.

Sarpanch Pawan inaugurates tile works in Ward 5



Sarpanch, Pawan Raina inaugurating development work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader and Sarpanch, Pawan Raina on Thursday inaugurated tile works at lane at Brij Nagar in Ward 5.

The work will be completed at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh and the lane and drain of the area were in dilapidated condition since long due to which locals of the area and the passersby were fac-

ing a lot of problems while moving through these lanes. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Raina asked the people of his Ward to support Congress Party for development works undertaken in the Ward as present BJP Govt failed to redress the public issues. He assured that the pending works will be started soon.

On the occasion, while

targeting the Delimitation Commission, he said that his Panchayat Kharian has been linked with Bishnah assembly seat, which is totally wrong because his Panchayat is at a distance of about 10 kilometers and the seat of RS Pura-Jammu South is passing just near it. He warned that his Panchayat should be linked to the seat of Jammu South-RS Pura, otherwise, a protest would be held against the government by closing the Jammu-RS Pura road soon. On the occasion, Panch Harichand, Panch Shashi Sharma, Panch Sonia Sharma, Panch Suresh Sharma, Sahil Sharma and other dignitaries of the Panchayat were present.

J&K students to participate in 7th Korea-India Friendship Quiz Contest

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Korean Cultural Centre India opened registration for 7th Korea-India Friendship Quiz Contest from today to 15 April.

"Schools from Pan India including Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (J&K UT) can participate in one of the biggest school level quiz contest," Hwang Il-yong, Director of Korean Cultural Centre India said.

To participate students need to register at www.koreaindiaquiz2022.com, he said adding that FIRS'T winner will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, runner-up will be awarded Rs 1.5 lakh and second runner-up (3rd rank) will be awarded Rs 1 lakh.

Above this all 10 zonal champions will win Rs 10,000 each along with

Certificates of Honor and KCCI Membership for 2 years, he added.

The event will be divided into three parts. First online round which will be held from today to 15 April after registering through the web link, students can take the quiz according to their own convenient time, at the end student will receive an electronic participation certificate, he said adding that in 2nd round, Pan India will be divided into 5 Zones- North, South, West, East and central zones, the contest will be held from April 27 to 29 on their respective dates decided for each zone separately.

The winners of each zone selected through the second round will have their final face-to-face competition on May 12 grand finale at the Delhi event venue.

■ TSEWANG RIGZIN

LEH: Ladakh Branch office of the Buddhist Society of India was inaugurated at Leh on Wednesday by President Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) Thupstan Chhewang in presence of several prominent Buddhist leaders including President Ladakh Gonpa Association (LGA), Gelong Shatup Chamba; Vice President LBA, Chering Dorjay; President LBA Youth Wing Rigzin Dorjay; President LBA Women Wing, Yangchan Dolma; Nominated Councillor, Phuntsog Norboo; and State President, Buddhist Society of India, Ladakh Branch, Sonam Stobdan among others.

The branch office was inaugurated by hoisting the national flag and the Buddhist flag on the rooftop



President LBA Thupstan Chhewang and others during inauguration.

of the office building. Inauguration ceremony was followed by speeches by Buddhist leaders who said that the caste system has no place in Buddhism. Buddhist leaders of Ladakh wholeheartedly welcomed a branch office of the Buddhist Society of India and hoped that the newly inaugurated office served as a bridge between the traditional Buddhists of Ladakh and other Buddhists population in the rest of India.

The Ladakh branch office of the Buddhist Society of India was formed last year in pres-

ence of President LBA, President LGA, Buddhist Society of India's National Trustee's Chairman Dr Harish Rawalia National President Chandrabhoti Patil, and Founder-President Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Ladakh, Bhikkhu Sanghasena.

The Buddhist Society of India, also known as the Bharatiya Baundha Mahasabha, is a national level Buddhist organization in India. It was founded by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on 4 May 1955 in Maharashtra.