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Encourage private players...

infrastructure and introducing innovative medical practices to provide quality healthcare to the doorsteps of the common people, the Lt Governor said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has now moved forward to the category of front-runners in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) index, while neonatal mortality rate reached single digit and universal health coverage has been extended across the UT.

We have not only checked the alarming decline in health infrastructure and funding in up-gradation, but also steadily increased it in the last couple of years, he said.

Atma Nirbhar Bharat is making impressive strides in harnessing intellectual property, reforms in Pharma industry to compete with the best in the world and expanding cooperation with other developing countries. The whole world is looking at India as a self-reliant nation on the move, as a nation poised to become the superpower, added the Lt Governor.

Prime Minister has toughened the competitive muscle of the health sector in J&K and also improved the delivery to poor patients with chronic kidney disease, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor advised the Nephrologists, dialysis experts and transplant physicians to seek innovative ways, research and development to provide affordable and inclusive solutions.

We also need to improve care coordination and patient education for those living with kidney disease in rural areas through enhanced coordination with the government, added the Lt Governor.

In order to develop future technologies such as artificial kidneys and ensure a flexible care model, we have to nurture nephrology segment, attract and retain brightest experts in the field and promote organ donation and safe transplantation campaign within the country, the Lt Governor further added.

In the last two years, there have been many lessons from global pandemic for policy-makers, doctors and researchers. With a large reservoir of medical potential that is second to none in competence, India is recuperating and every segment of healthcare has shown remarkable resilience. We are proud of our scientists, experts and doctors who are transforming India into a healthcare giant, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor further advised the Indian Society of Nephrology to annually review the progress made in critical health care segments like nephrology and suggest corrections for the government to prevent, detect, and slow the progression of kidney disease and meet the growing needs for experts, trained workforce. With our collaborative efforts, the pursuit of excellence can be achieved, added the Lt Governor.

Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow; Dr. Pradeep Kumar Rai, Organizing Secretary, Indian Society of Nephrology (North Zone); Dr. Jai Prakash, Organizing Chairman, members of senior Advisory Committee and Executive Committee, besides Varanasi Nephrology Society members, experts, Doctors were present on the occasion.

Putin warns 3rd...

question No. 1. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Saturday said Russia was ready for a third round of talks on that and other issues, but he asserted that the Ukrainian side, the most interested side here, it would seem, is constantly making up various pretexts to delay the beginning of another meeting.

Diplomatic efforts continued as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Poland to meet with the prime minister and foreign minister, a day after attending a NATO meeting in Brussels in which the alliance pledged to step up support for eastern flank members.

In the wake of Western sanctions, Aeroflot, Russia's flagship state-owned airline, announced that it plans to halt all international flights, except to Belarus, starting Tuesday.

While a vast Russian armoured column threatening Ukraine's capital remained stalled outside Kyiv, the shelling in Mariupol showed Russia's determination to cut Ukraine off from access to the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, further damaging the country's economy.

Even in cities that have fallen to the Russians, there were signs of resistance - peaceful or otherwise. As homes in the northern city of Chernihiv burned from what locals blamed on the Russian shelling that's targeted Ukraine's urban areas from the start, Ukrainian officials released images showing a Russian plane they said was shot down there.

Presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovich said the situation was generally quiet Saturday and Russian forces have not taken active actions since the morning.

Instead it was Putin who was most on the offensive with his comments warning against a wider war.

Ukraine's president has pleaded for a no-fly zone over his country and lashed out at NATO for refusing to impose one, warning that all the people who die from this day forward will also die because of you.

NATO has said a no-fly zone, which would bar all unauthorized aircraft from flying over Ukraine, could provoke widespread war in Europe. But as the United States and other NATO members send weapons for Kyiv, the conflict is already drawing in countries far beyond Ukraine's borders.

As Russia cracks down on independent media reporting on the war, major international news outlets said they were pausing their work inside the country. Moscow also blocked Facebook and Twitter.

And in a warning of a hunger crisis yet to come, the U.N. World Food Program has said millions of people inside Ukraine, a major global wheat supplier, will need food aid immediately.

Ukraine's president was set to brief U.S. senators Saturday by video conference as Congress considers a request for USD 10 billion in emergency funding for humanitarian aid and security needs.

And the U.N. Security Council scheduled an open meeting for Monday on the worsening humanitarian situation. The United Nations estimates that 12 million people in Ukraine and 4 million fleeing to neighbouring countries in the coming months will need humanitarian aid.

At least 351 civilians have been confirmed killed since Russia's invasion on Feb. 24, but the true number is probably much higher, the U.N. human rights office has said. Russia said Wednesday 498 of its troops had been killed and has not updated since. Kyiv's central train station remained crowded with people desperate to flee. People just want to live, one woman, Ksenia, said.

Elsewhere in the capital, in a sign of nerves near breaking point, two people on a sidewalk froze in their tracks at the sound of a sharp bang. It was a garbage truck upending a bin.

BSF opens fire...

general area of Arnia around 4:10 am.

"The humming sound of a suspected drone was heard in the morning at 4:10 am by

alert troops of the BSF in the general area of Arnia. The troops fired towards the direction of the sound," the spokesperson said.

He said the area was cordoned off with the help of police, and a joint search operation was underway.

The officials said BSF troops fired around 18 rounds within a span of 10 minutes after picking up the movement of the drone.

This comes 10 days after police recovered a huge consignment of arms and ammunition dropped by the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its offshoot, The Resistance Front, by a drone in the same area in R S Pura sector.

The seizure on February 24 included a pistol with two magazines and 70 rounds, three detonators, three remote-controlled IEDs, three bottles of explosives, one bundle of cortex wire, two-timer IEDs and six grenades.

In the past one year, security forces have shot down two drones and seized their payloads, including rifles, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), sticky bombs and narcotics, in Jammu region.

Modi chairs another...

exercise. India on Saturday said its main focus now is on the evacuation of around 700 Indian students stranded in the eastern Ukrainian city of Sumy which has been witness to bombings and airstrikes.

At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India hopes to evacuate its citizens from Kharkiv and Pisochny in the next few hours.

"Our main focus is now on evacuating Indian students from Sumy. We are exploring multiple options for their evacuation," he said.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Ministry has said that eleven flights with more than 2,200 Indian evacuees will operate from Ukraine's neighbouring countries to India on Sunday.

About 3,000 Indians were airlifted on 15 flights to India on Saturday, the ministry's statement noted.

"These included 12 special civilian and 3 Indian Air Force (IAF) flights," it added.

The Ukrainian airspace has been shut since February 24 due to the ongoing Russian military offensive against it. Indian citizens who were stuck in Ukraine are being airlifted via its neighbouring countries such as Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

The IAF is conducting its flights using C-17 military transport planes. The civilian flight are being operated by Indian carriers such as IndiGo, Air India, Vistara and SpiceJet.

"Today's (Saturday's) civilian flights included five from Budapest (Hungary), four from Suceava (Romania), one from Kosice (Slovakia) and two from Rzeszow (Poland)," the ministry said.

Tomorrow, 11 special flights are expected to operate from Budapest, Kosice, Rzeszow and Bucharest, bringing more than 2,200 Indians back home, it noted.

130 industrial services...

approved. According to officials, the new reforms are bringing in additional businesses and in 2021 alone, Jammu and Kashmir received Rs 70,000 crore of investments.

The IDS was announced in January 2021 with a total outlay of Rs 28,400 crore to encourage new investments in the union territory and to take industrial development to the block level.

Jammu and Kashmir has entered a new age of developmental trajectory with the integration of IDS with NSWS, an official said, adding that it is a giant leap in promoting the Ease of Doing Business.

IDS was soft-launched in September last year by the Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.

Through this window portal, Jammu and Kashmir is being linked to a larger network of partnerships that include both domestic and foreign companies, thus making room for the region to be more competitive, they said.

To attract robust investments, the department of Industries and Commerce, the nodal agency for implementing the industrial reforms, is supervising the compliance of Business Reforms Action Plan, 2022 and Regulatory Compliance Burden, 2022.

As NSWS is linked with the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) it hosts 45 industrial parks in Jammu and Kashmir it will help investors discover available land parcels in the union territory, the officials said.

In simple terms, the NSWS will eliminate the need for investors to visit multiple platforms or offices to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders, they said.

NIA Court frames...

custody from Wachi Shopian and during their search, one VIVO mobile phone was recovered.

During interrogation, accused Kifayat Rashid Koka disclosed that initially he was working as SPO but subsequently left the job and started a Ready-made garment shop in partnership with Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Irfan Ahmed at Sangam Anantnag. Ishfaq Majeed Koka was already running a retail shop of Readymade garments wherein, he engaged Azad Ahmed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar as Salesmen, and later shifted Azad Ahmed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar in their wholesale readymade garments shop. After sometime, the shop fell in loss, on which Irfan Ahmed cancelled the partnership thereby making Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Kifayat Rashid Koka only partners of business. Since the real brother of Ishfaq Majeed Koka namely Burhan Koka was an active terrorist of Ansar-Ghawat-Hind and accused persons were impressed by living standard of Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar, they came to know that these persons had connection with terrorists of Ansar-Ghawat-Hind organization. As wholesale business of Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar was not working well and ultimately got closed, while in April 2020, Burhan Koka was killed in an encounter and his dead body was not handed over to family members, on which all family members including Ishfaq Majeed Koka were not happy with army and got inclined to assist terrorist activities. Since Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar were already working as OGWS and after death of Burhan Koka, they started receiving messages from terrorists on WhatsApp and Telegram. Both of them were in direct contact with the aforesaid terrorist and Ishfaq Majeed Koka, who motivated Kifayat Rashid Koka and Azad Ahmed Koka to join terrorist rank and in September 2020, Ishfaq Majeed Koka assigned the task to Kifayat Rashid Koka and Azad Ahmed Koka for bringing terror money from Jammu. One of the close friend of Altaf Ahmed namely Zubair Farooq Koka, who was also a friend of deceased terrorist Burhan Koka and was studying in Jammu, was contacted by Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar and he was assigned the job under the direction of Muzamil Manzoor Tantray to collect terror money from Sunjwan Jammu. He was further asked to deposit the money in parts in different accounts and after withdrawing the same, it was decided to hand-over the same to terrorist namely Muzamil Manzoor Tantray. As per directions of Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar, accused Zubair Farooq Koka collected terror money amounting to Rs 16 lakh from an unknown person who came in an i-20 car at Sunjwan. Complying the directions, the accused Zubair Farooq Koka had deposited Rs 3,50,000 in each of the bank accounts of Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar and subse-

ed a person at Moughla area, who was taking two bovines by foot without any of permission. FIR no. 17/2022 under section 188 of IPC and 11 of PCA Act was registered against him.

Motorcyclist, associate nabbed with poppy straw, Charas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Tightening noose on narcotics smugglers under Operation Sanjeevani, police foiled a narcotics smuggling bid at Nashri under 'Operation Sanjeevani' by arresting two accused and recovered 18 Kg Poppy Straw and 200 gm Charas like substance from their possession.

As per details, during routine checking of vehicles at Nashri Naka, a party of Police Station Batote intercepted a Motorcycle (JK14D 7992) for checking, which was plying from Kashmir towards Punjab and was driven by one Mohd Altaf, son of Abdul Aziz, resident of Chack Rakwana, Udhampur while pillion-rider was identified as Sikander Ahmad Chechi, son of Ameen Chechi, resident of Kandiwar, Waldar Booch Anantnag, Kokernag. During search of duo, 18 Kg Poppy Straw and 200 gm Charas like substance was recovered from their possession. Duo was arrested and FIR No 29/2022 under sections 8/15/20/29 of NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Batote. The overall recovery and arrest was made by police party led by Insp Sudhir Sadhotra, SHO Batote under supervision of Vikar Ahmad Bhat, DySP DAR Ramban and under overall supervision of Mohita Sharma, SSP Ramban.

Driver dies as tipper falls into Nallah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: A driver of a tipper died after the vehicle turned turtle and fell into a rivulet while leaving from Bramri Nallah in Kupwara district.

As per details, the incident occurred when driver was just leaving the spot after sand was loaded into tipper. Soon after receiving information, police and locals rushed to spot and after hectic efforts retrieved body of the driver, who was identified as Fayaz Ahmad Dar (36), a resident of Chak Hatmulla, Kupwara. A case has been registered and further investigations started.

3 years after 'abduction', woman rescued from Uttarakhand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Three years after a woman allegedly went missing from Poonch, was rescued and her alleged abductor was arrested from Dehradun in Uttarakhand,

quently had also deposited Rs 3 lakh in the bank account of Ishfaq Majeed Koka while Rs 4 lakh was deposited in the bank account of Naseer-ul-Islam who happen to be the friend of cousin brother of Ishfaq Majeed Koka. The accused had also purchased utensils worth Rs 28,400 from Wasim Ahmed War and had also managed to transfer Rs 2,000 lakh from account of Azad Ahmed into the account of one Zahid Zahoor War, from whom they had purchased clothes for terrorists worth Rs 15,000. The accused persons mischievously purchased the aforesaid articles on credit basis and subsequently, instead of transferring the actual amount of purchase, had transferred Rs 2 lakh to each merchant's account on plea that this money was mistakenly transferred and thereby received balance amount in cash from these merchants.

Special Judge NIA Sunit Gupta after hearing battery of lawyers for accused, whereas APP Anil Magotra for UT observed that from perusal of the oral evidence as well as digital evidence collected by IO during investigation, it was prima facie proved that all accused persons namely Kifayat Rashid Koka, Azad Ahmed Koka, Abid Hussain Bakshi, Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar were working in sync to achieve their greater goal for flowing terror money to reach its ultimate destination of terrorist Muzamil Manzoor Tantray. Whereas accused Mubarak Ahmed Thoker and Abid Hussain Bakshi were part of conspiracy with Muzamil Manzoor Tantray, the AGUH terrorist to transport two Pakistani terrorists with code names Sajid and Bilal from Surankote to Shopian for committing terrorist activities. But due to swift action taken by Surankote police and army, the aforesaid Pakistani terrorists could not reach destination and were neutralized during an encounter. From aforesaid detailed discussion, accused persons namely Kifayat Rashid Koka, Azad Ahmed Koka, Ishfaq Majeed Koka and Altaf Ahmed Dar are prima facie found to be guilty for the offences under sections 17/39/40 of UA(P) Act. While accused persons namely Abid Hussain Bakshi and Mubarak Ahmed Thoker were prima facie found to be guilty for offences under section 17/18/39 of UA(P) Act, accused Zubair Farooq Koka is prima facie found to be guilty for offences under sections 17/40 of UA(P) Act.

Four of family...

information about the accident around 6:30 am and immediately launched a rescue operation. Mushtaq's father Gulzar Ahmad, mother Zara Begum, brother Mohammad Iqbal and sister Masrat along with another person Mohammad Akbar died in the accident," she said.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

"Deeply saddened to learn about the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Mansar, Samba. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the early recovery of the injured," Sinha wrote on Twitter.

The Samba Deputy Commissioner said she had talked to the sarpanch who is on the way to receive the bodies, while efforts are on to establish contact with Akbar's family. She announced immediate relief of Rs 1 lakh to the next of kin of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured from the Red Cross fund.

Traffic restored on...

extensively damaged the steel tunnel near Panthiyal in the early hours of Saturday, forcing suspension of the traffic.

The restoration work was hampered by the falling rocks at regular intervals, they said, adding the agencies concerned removed the damaged girders and finally the traffic was allowed from both sides.

The engineers are assessing the damage to the tunnel and the repair work will be started shortly, according to the officials.

Western Army Commander...

by Chief of Staff, Rising Star Corps, Maj Gen Manoj Tiwari.

Lt Gen Khanduri also visited Balidan Stambh, Jammu, and paid homage to the bravehearts who have made supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation.

Ganderbal man who...

Shah breathed his last at SKIMS hospital where he was undergoing treatment since February 22.

He had set himself on fire as the irrigation and flood control department launched a demolition drive against illegal constructions along the banks of water bodies following many complaints.

They said during the demolition drive along the banks of Sindh stream, Shah suddenly appeared from behind an illegal structure and self-immolated on its roof in protest against the demolition.

Though Shah was rescued by locals and police personnel on the spot, he received burn injuries before the flames were doused, the officials said.

The owners of the illegal structure had also dug a deep trench to prevent any ingress into the premises which prevented a prompt rescue, they added.

The incident went viral on social media, prompting police to appeal to people not to share it. The administration has already ordered an inquiry into the incident.

Box mistakenly dropped...

a bomb disposal squad to verify the box, that was lying unattended on the road at Mirza Kamil chowk of Hawal area in the downtown.