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Focus on massive...

Secretaries and senior officials to ensure the timely submission of Utilization Certificates. The Lt Governor directed the departments to explore all possibilities to further improve revenue realization and follow the instructions of the administration to adhere to the austerity measures to cut the expenditure.

An integrated system should also be developed by all the departments for procurement of products from Self Help Groups and MSMEs, he said.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Lt Governor directed the Administrative Secretaries and senior officials of the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department and PWD (R&B) to closely monitor the progress on Transit accommodations for PM Package employees.

Govt grants 3...

days Special Casual Leave on 7th, 9th & 11th March, 2024 in favour of Jammu based Migrant and Prime Minister's Package employees working in Kashmir Valley, who desire to celebrate 'Mahashivratri' with their families at Jammu." read an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department.

Veterinary Assistant Surgeon...

the matter concerning Dr. Manzoor's absence from duty. Dr. Shahbaz Manzoor was initially appointed as a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in the Sheep Husbandry Department of Jammu and Kashmir based on the recommendation of the J&K Public Service Commission. However, subsequent events led to complications regarding his employment status.

One significant development was Dr. Manzoor's selection for a Ph.D. program in Veterinary Patho-biology at the prestigious College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. While this opportunity was a commendable achievement for Dr. Manzoor, it also raised questions about his commitment to his duties as a government employee.

The matter was further complicated by bureaucratic procedures and departmental protocols. Various government departments, including the General Administration Department and the Finance Department, scrutinized the case multiple times, seeking clarification and compliance with regulations governing study leave. Despite repeated notices and reminders to resume his duties, Dr. Manzoor failed to return to work, indicating a lack of interest in fulfilling his obligations as a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. This raised concerns about his dedication to public service and adherence to professional responsibilities.

In light of Dr. Manzoor's prolonged absence and apparent disinterest in returning to work, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to terminate his services. This decision, made under Article-128 of J&K Civil Service Regulations, 1956, reflects the government's commitment to upholding standards of accountability and discipline in the public sector.

The termination of Dr. Shahbaz Manzoor's services serves as a reminder of the importance of prioritizing professional commitments and fulfilling duties as a public servant. It underscores the need for individuals employed in government positions to demonstrate accountability and dedication to their roles.

While Dr. Manzoor's case may be viewed as an isolated incident, it highlights broader issues related to employee conduct and adherence to regulations within government departments. It emphasizes the importance of effective governance and oversight mechanisms to ensure the efficient functioning of public institutions.

Moving forward, it is imperative for the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to enforce strict measures to prevent similar instances of absenteeism and negligence among government employees. This may involve implementing clearer guidelines for study leave, enhancing monitoring mechanisms, and promoting a culture of accountability and responsibility within the civil service.

We will win...

its peak. Leaders of JMM and Congress have only looted the people of Jharkhand and have created a mountain of undisclosed assets.

"I have never seen such bundles of notes in my life before. This money belongs to the people and poor tribals of Jharkhand. This money was for the future of your children but it has been looted," Modi said, apparently referring to the recovery of over Rs 350 crore in cash from the premises of Jharkhand Congress MP Dhiraj Sahu.

He asked whether people would forgive such persons and promised that the looted money would be returned to people, saying it is Modi's guarantee.

"When Modi takes action against the corrupt, they try to flee from the probe as they know their sins," he said without naming the jailed former chief minister Hemant Soren who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on January 31 in a money laundering case linked to alleged land scam.

Taking a jibe at the former CM, Modi asked the crowd to raise slogans so loudly that it reaches jail and asked: "Should they be allowed out of jail if they looted Jharkhand's wealth? Will you forgive them?"

"JMM and Congress have only considered the tribals as mere vote banks. They will never allow the talented tribals to go ahead as they are concerned about their families only but what Modi is doing is for you and your children," Modi said.

The revival of plants like the Sindri fertiliser unit, and North Karanpura power project are examples of fulfilment of Modi's guarantee, he said.

He also attacked the INDIA bloc, claiming it is "anti-development and anti-people". "Whatever schemes are being framed by Modi are being opposed by the INDI Alliance. We gave free ration to the poor during Covid...No matter how much they try Modi, the free ration scheme for the poor will continue," he said.

"INDI Alliance is creating hurdles in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, Awas Yojna and other schemes. There is less than 50 per cent work in Jal Jeevan Mission in Jharkhand," he said.

Referring to migrant workers from Jharkhand, he said, the "one nation, one ration card" scheme is there so they get ration wherever they are.

It was the BJP which created Jharkhand and a separate department for tribal welfare whose budget has been increased fivefold, he said, adding the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda was declared as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

"Your dream is the pledge of Modi," the Prime Minister said, claiming that in the last 10 years, 25 crore people have come out of the poverty line and going forward, it will be wiped out.

"I get so much love from the people. When you give so much love to me, I live for your well-being and devote each and every second of my life to the people and since you believe in me, your welfare is Modi's guarantee," he said.

He said the people of Jharkhand had seen how his guarantees had been completed including inauguration of Deoghar airport and regional AIIMS.

"Jharkhand is among the states of the country where railway electrification has been completed and the state has got three Vande Bharat trains. Besides, under Amrit Bharat Yojana, works for development of 27 railway stations have started," Modi said.

Hitting back at the PM for terming JMM as a "Jam Kar Khao" party, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha said BJP translates into "Bharpoor Jiyo Punjipatiyo (Enjoy life to the fullest, capitalists)".

The party in a statement said: "The Prime Minister talks about corruption. Did he forget that Himanta Biswa Sarma, Ajit Pawar, Praful Patel, Narayan Rane, B S Yediyurappa and Suwendu Adhikari, who were declared corrupt by the BJP, are in his party and are like jewels in his cap?"

This is the maiden visit of the Prime Minister to Jharkhand after the new Champai Soren government was sworn in on February 2 here after his predecessor was put behind the bars.

The BJP-AJSU alliance had won 12 out of the 14 parliamentary seats in Jharkhand in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Congress and JMM had won one seat each while the long Congress MP Geeta Kora joined BJP on February 26.

HC directs UT...

petitioners in ex-parte and without providing them an opportunity of being heard.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, while deciding bunch of petitions, observed that a careful reading of Subsection (1) of Section 83 of the Act, it clearly comes out that each State Government, which would include Union Territory as well is put under an obligation to constitute one or more Tribunals, as it may think fit, by issuing notification in the Official Gazette.

"The word 'shall' used in respect of constitution of Tribunal or Tribunals is mandatory in nature. It further comes out that the Tribunal/Tribunals so constituted by the Government of State or Union Territory shall have jurisdiction to determine any dispute, question or other matter relating to a Waqf or Waqf property, eviction of a tenant or determination of rights and obligations of the lessor and the lessee of such property under this Act. Obviously, the dispute raised in these petitions falls within the determination of Tribunal. As is apparent from a reading of Section 85 of the Act, no Civil Court, Revenue Court and any other authority shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or other legal proceeding in respect of any dispute, question or other matter relating to any Waqf property as also the matter which is required by or under the Act to be determined by the

Tribunal."

Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed that in view of the clear legal position emerging from reading of Sections 83 and 85 of the Act, this Court has no option but to agree with the learned counsel appearing for the petitioners that in the event these writ petitions are not entertained, the petitioners would be rendered remediless.

"Much was said about the power and jurisdiction of this Court to entertain the writ petition despite availability of an alternative remedy provided under the Statute. Suffice it to say the question of relegating the parties to an alternative remedy or entertaining of a petition under Article 226 despite availability of statutory alternative remedy would arise only when this Court has jurisdiction to entertain the writ petition. Had this Court come to a conclusion that writ petition challenging the impugned action of the Board of Anqaf was amenable to writ jurisdiction, certainly it would not have relegated the petitioners to the remedy before the Tribunal for the simple reason that the Tribunal does not exist", the Court said. "In view of the foregoing and being aware that dismissal of these writ petitions on the ground of maintainability under Article 226 of the Constitution of India would in the present circumstances render the petitioners remediless, this Court cannot entertain these petitions and exercise jurisdiction not vested in it. However, having regard to the predicament faced by the petitioners or may be faced by similarly situated persons in future, High Court deem it appropriate to remind the Government of the Union Territory of its statutory duty enjoined on it under Section 83 of the Act and to take requisite steps for constitution of one or more Tribunals, as it may think fit, so that persons aggrieved are not rendered remediless. In the premises, writ petitions are held not maintainable and the same are, accordingly, dismissed. However, while dismissing the writ petitions and taking note of the chaotic situation created due to non constitution of the Tribunal or Tribunals, Justice Sanjeev Kumar directed the Government of Union Territory to constitute one or more Tribunals, as it may think fit, in terms of Section 83 of the Act within a period of two months from the date of this judgment.

Historic Ranbireshwar temple...

festival day, disclosing that it will be fully opened for devotees in the first week of April. He also reviewed the ongoing renovation works at Rani Samadhi's complex, comprising Samadhis of the Royal Dogra Maharanis and Ranis.

He directed the officials accompanied to expedite the restoration efforts, ensuring that the cultural heritage of the site is safeguarded for future generations.

CEO reviews preparedness...

the District Election Officers and SSPs of all the concerned districts.

Among other facets, detailed discussion was held on implementation of electoral roll process, assessment of logistical requirements, manpower management plan, risk management plan, transportation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), polling staff and security personnel, security arrangements both in plains and border areas. The meeting further deliberated on allocation of sufficient Human Resources, implementation of SVEEP plan at booth level, formulation of a comprehensive material management plan, efficient and secure route mapping and development of an extensive training program tailored for Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and designated nodal officers to ensure extensive preparation for the elections.

The CEO instructed the DEOs to establish robust control rooms in their respective districts to monitor various aspects of the election process, including tracking EVM-carrying vehicles, communication from polling stations, monitoring print and social media while acting as point of contact in case of any emergencies during the elections.

To maximize public participation in the electoral process, Pandurang instructed the AROs for implementation of widespread awareness campaigns at the booth level by engaging BLOs, sports personalities, government employees, youth icons, influencers and by organizing sports events, rallies, competitions, door-to-door campaigns etc. The Chief Electoral Officer also underscored the importance of guaranteeing Adequate Minimum Facilities (AMF) for the polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the election day. He instructed the appointed Welfare Officers to ensure availability of clean washrooms, drinking water, first aid and electricity, at their designated camping areas for their comfort and well-being while fulfilling their duties during the elections.

J&K Admin committed...

affordable electricity for units and low crime rate have made J&K the preferred destination for the investors.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Bloomtex Industries for starting the production within one year.

The Lt Governor further added that the compliance burden has been reduced to facilitate the ease of doing business.

Today we can fulfil the 70 per cent land need of the industries. Earlier, availability of land was an issue, but now we are making dedicated efforts to reduce the land deficit.

The Lt Governor highlighted the investments received in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions in industrial sector. More than Rs 90,000 crore investment proposals were received in last few years and Rs 14,000 crore worth investments are being implemented on the ground.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the growth journey of J&K Bank.

Directors and office bearers of Bloomtex Industries Private Limited and industrialists from different parts of the country were present.

Driver killed as...

Rajat Thappa lost control while negotiating a curve, the officials said. The vehicle caught fire and the rescuers, consisting of police and local volunteers, had a tough time retrieving the charred body of the deceased who is said to be in his 30's. Fire and emergency services also rushed their personnel and machinery to douse the flames that had engulfed the bushes all along the steep slope, the officials said, adding that a portion of the tanker had submerged in Chenab river.

My Govt will...

He said, "During my tenure as Chief Minister, I built these flats but since then, no government has paid any attention to them. They are suffering. We provided packages for employment and other essentials during my tenure in the center and advocated strongly for them. However, since then, the Central government has neglected these efforts. We were expecting further support and packages for the residents. I appeal to the government to feel their pain".

Azad said that if voted to power, his government will uplift their stand of living and will take all necessary steps for their settlement and providing jobs and facilities to those living in these flats.

Azad also extended warm greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri.

Among others present on the occasion included R.S.Chib, Gen Secretary, Anita Thakur Gen Secretary, Sunita Arora Secretary, Sanjay Dhar President KP Wing, Gouvar Chopra Distt President, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary, Charanjeet Singh Publicity Secretary, Gawhar Wani Spokesperson, Daizy Dhar Mahila President, Anjali Pandita Mahila Unit President Jagti, Renu Razdan Mahila Vice President, Naveen Gosani Youth President, Rahul Raina Youth Vice President and others.

Tourism Deptt working...

process of working out different progressive concepts for substantial increase in footfall to our tourist destinations and making J&K hub of tourism all over the country.

Among several other initiatives, the department is contemplating to take up projects in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in both the divisions for increasing tourist footfall to such locations besides adding variety of activities to perform there.

It has also decided to conduct a 3-day conference inviting high profile domain experts in areas including Administration, Hospitality, Tourism Academia, eco Tourism, IT, Travel Trade Associations, Film and Industrial sectors.

It further intends to hold shows like Grand F4 Car shows in association with private players. The department in order to showcase the stunning beauty of J&K wants to create a brand ad film and song of its own featuring it as a premier tourist destination in India besides having a brand ambassador of high repute promoting the brand J&K all over the world.

The Department even revealed that for promotion of tourism sector it wants to have trade travel engagement either. It schedules to take premier members in the arenas of nature, adventure and pilgrimage tourism on Fam tours to promote these circuits here.

Among other initiatives the Department is going revamp its website to make it all inclusive and informative for all the stakeholders. It has decided to have collaboration with major national players like Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAOI) for highlighting adventure tourism assets of the UT globally. This is said to generate economic activity and rural employment in addition to making J&K a world-class adventure tourism destination.

Higher reaches of...

despite rains. The traffic on the highway was restricted to one-way since February 26 and is playing alternatively from the twin capital cities after heavy rains and snowfall rendered the arterial road damaged at several places including Dalwas, Mehad-Cafeteria, Gangroo, Hingni and Kishtwari Pather.

The officials said the efforts are on to resume two-way traffic on the highway as early as possible.

Traffic was stopped on Jammu-Batote-Kishtwar highway following a landslide triggered by rains at Pakki Hatti in Kishtwar district, the officials said, the concerned agencies have pressed men and machines to make the highway trafficable.

Journalist arrested two...

night," the officials said. He was first arrested in an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act case in September 2018 when he was working as a reporter with a local magazine. The journalist was arrested for "allegedly providing logistical support to a banned militant group".

In April 2022, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court granted him bail in the case on the grounds that investigative agencies "failed to establish his links with any militant group". However, days later he was booked under the PSA.

He was released from Ambedkar Nagar district jail in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday and reached home on Thursday.

14 College principals transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Friday transferred 14 principals of government degree colleges in the Jammu division.

According to the order issued by Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Ravinder Kumar Tickoo has been transferred from GDC Kunjwani and posted to GCW Parade; Shallu Sambyal from GDC Ukhral to GDC Bishnah; B.B Anand from GDC Sidhra to MAM College; G.S Rukmal from MAM College to GDC Sidhra; SP Saraswat from GCW Parade to GCW Gandhi Nagar; Kuldeep Sharma from GDC Bhaderwah to GDC Jindrah; Manisha Kohli from GDC Bani to GDC Kunjwani; Rajinder Singh from GDC Kotranka to SPMR College of Commerce Jammu; Nalini Pathania from GDC Nagrota to GCW Udhampur; Anwar Shah from GDC Padder to GDC Peeri Kotranka; Manohar Lal from GDC Bishnah to GDC Bani; Anjali Mahajan from GCW Udhampur to GDC Nagrota; Mussaraf Hussain Shah from GDC Darhal to GDC Mandi; and Zamir Ahmed Mirza from GDC Mandi to GDC Darhal.

Illegal property of notorious drug peddlers worth lakh attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Police in Kulgam attached property (Single-storied residential house worth approx. Rs10.5 lacs) measuring 916.75 Sq ft belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Nisar Ahmad Khanday Son of Bashir Ahmad Khanday resident of Nipora.

The action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985 & is linked with case FIR No. 39/2023 U/S 8/15 of NDPS Act of PS Qazigund.

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation conducted by Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in narcotic drug and psychotropic substances by the drug peddler.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of J&K Police to combat the drug menace. Locals of the area hailed the initiative of Police.

Police in Baramulla also attached properties (double-storied residential house and vehicles worth approx. Rs 36 lacs) belonging to notorious drug peddlers namely Mohd Zahid Shah (Geelani) son of Peer Hussain Shah resident of Basgran Uri, Ahtisham-ud-Din Khan son of Bashir Ahmad resident of Ladoora Raffabad & Reyaz Ahmad Ganie son of Gh Hassan resident of Batangi Boniyar. The vehicles include 02 i20 bearing registration No. JK01AK-2765 & JK05G-5682, Scooty bearing registration number JK05G-0116. The action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985 & were linked with case FIR No. 54/2022 u/s 8/21 NDPS Act of PS Uri, case FIR No. 71/2023 u/s 8/21-29 NDPS Act of PS Sheeri & case FIR No. 352/2023 u/s 8/20 NDPS Act of PS Pattan. The properties were identified as illegally acquired properties during the course of investigation. The properties were prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in narcotic drug and psychotropic substances by the drug peddlers.

2 drug peddlers arrested; contraband substances, cash recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances & cash from their possession. A Police party headed by SHO PS Boniyar at a checkpoint established on Bernate Link Road Boniyar, intercepted two suspicious persons who tried to flee from the spot but were apprehended tactfully. They have been identified as Mohd Raffiq Sheikh son of Mohd Subhan & Bashir Ahmad Ganie son of Gh Rasool, both residents of Bernate Boniyar. During search, officer was able to recover 48 grams of Charas & cash amount of ?4600/-. They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station Boniyar where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Boniyar and investigation has been initiated.

Stolen bike recovered, lifter arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Thursday nabbed an accused and recovered stolen bike from his possession. As per details, a team of police post Rehari Jammu led by Incharge SI Muzaffar Hussain Shah recovered the stolen motorcycle (JK02DF/2568) which was stolen from Rehari Chungi on Feb 27, 2024 from the accused namely Vishal Kumar alias Palu, son of Late Surinder Kumar, resident of Sudechak Tehsil Bishnah District Jammu . The said accused has been arrested by Police Post Rehari Jammu and FIR No. 18/2024 under section 379 IPC has been registered against him at police station Pacea Danga.



5 lodge owners booked for not installing CCTV cameras

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Five lodge owners in Katra were booked for not installing CCTV cameras on their properties despite an official notification, police said on Friday.

Katra, in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, is the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Reasi) Mohita Sharma said separate FIRs were registered against the lodge owners at Katra Police Station under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Police conducted a surprise check of commercial properties, including hotels, lodges and shops, in the town and found five lodges without CCTV cameras, prompting the action, she said.

A notification regarding the installation of CCTV cameras was earlier issued by the District Magistrate, Reasi. Asserting that police are committed to protecting the property of the citizens, the officer appealed to the owners of hotels, lodges and medical shops to make use of technology and install CCTV cameras on their premises for surveillance of criminal elements in the society.

Lead by example, set high standards for society: Bhagwat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday urged the organisation's workers to lead by example and set high standards for society. Addressing "swayamsevaks", Bhagwat stressed on "panch parivartan", a vision of social transformation based on a set of five core values. The "sarsangchalak" said RSS workers must embody "samajik samrasta" and "kutumb bhav", demonstrating in their own lives social harmony and the spirit of viewing entire society as one's own family. Bhagwat also emphasised the importance of sensitivity towards the environment, and asked swayamsevaks to "avoid, and dissuade others from, the use of plastic".

He also asked RSS workers to "plant and protect trees and spread awareness against water wastage". Besides, he added, "We must promote Swadeshi, an ideal which would inspire society to make progress by making use of its own resources".

He also called for awareness of "our duties and citizens" and the need to strictly abide by these, urging the RSS workers to "inspire people by setting an example in their own lives". The RSS chief arrived here on Thursday evening. During his stay until March 3, he is expected to review preparations for the celebrations to mark 100 years of the establishment of the organisation.