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LG calls for...

vested interests. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir entered a new era of governance. We are addressing critical areas of reforms for speeding up investment and growth, the Lt Governor said.

Terming peace and harmony as preconditions for development, the Lt Governor lauded the Army and the security forces for their sustained efforts towards maintaining peace and also bringing misguided youth back on to the right path.

The 'Sahi Raasta' initiative by the Chinar Corps in collaboration with UT administration and civil society aims to bring the misguided youth back to normal life and provide them opportunities for a bright future and removing their misconceptions via interactions and counseling with expert mentors.

On the occasion, various mentors of the programme including SSP Baramulla and other young achievers were felicitated by the Lt Governor.

While speaking on the occasion, Lt Gen DP Pandey, GOC Chinar Corps talked briefly about the 'Sahi Raasta' initiative and the participants that have benefited from it.

Maj General S S Salaria, GoC Kilo Force; B K Singh, Principal Secretary School Education; Brigadier Alok Dash, Commandant 10 Sector; R.R Swain, Special DG CID; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Udhay Bhaskar Billa, DIG North; Bhupinder Kumar, DC Baramulla; Rayees Mohammad Bhat, SSP Baramulla; Col. Bannerjee 10 Sector RR, besides large number of youth, their parents and mentors were present on the occasion.

J&K witnessing golden...

here in the last few months. This has brought prosperity and is helping people establish peace," Sinha told reporters here.

The LG flagged off an event titled 'Athwas', a unique partnership between citizens and authorities for the rejuvenation of the Dal lake. Under the project, de-weeding and dredging of the waterbody will be carried out in collaboration with the citizens.

"Several activities are happening (on the tourism front), 3,500 shikaras row the lake each day and I think no activity can be bigger than that. Around 400-500 (tourists) arrive here every day. The number of flights has increased. For some, it is difficult to get a ticket to Srinagar just two-three days before (the travel date). Hotels are booked. We are thinking about having more hotels here," Sinha said.

He said the Dal lake has become cleaner and will be restored to its pristine glory soon.

"The people as well as the administration here have vowed to keep clean the Dal lake, which is the cultural and historical heritage of the city. People from the world over want to visit the lake. The average citizen now feels that the lake has become cleaner than before.

"There are provisions for Rs 136 crore in the budget for cleaning the lake. Money had come before as well, but I do not think it was utilised as it is being done now. The lake has become better and the change is visible," Sinha said.

He added that money has been deposited in the DBT mode into the accounts of those cleaning the lake, which has led to a change in their economic and social lives and also ensured the cleaning of the lake on a war footing.

About the recent fire incidents in which a few houseboats were gutted, the LG said a provision has been kept in the Smart City project to provide immediate relief in case of fire incidents in the lake.

On the Smart City project for Srinagar, he said the administration is working on the need to protect the city's inheritance and also to provide modern amenities.

"When you will be able to ride a cycle along the banks of the Jhelum, sip coffee and enjoy free internet for half an hour, you will surely bring us sweets," Sinha said.

The Lt Governor observed that dedicated efforts have been initiated in the last two years to clean Dal Lake, and for conservation and protection of other water bodies across J&K. In this year's budget, Rs 373 crore has been allocated for development and conservation of Dal and Nageen lakes, he said.

He noted that for the first time in history, a successful campaign is being run with active public participation to clean Dal Lake. "The de-weeding campaign which was started last year was very successful; now we will add new cleaning machines to the existing fleet and start dredging work on the western side to restore 60,000 Sq metre area", he added.

On the conservation of Wular Lake, the Lt Governor said that a walkway is proposed to be built along the Lake which will enhance the beauty of Wular and also help in preventing encroachment along it.

"Our aim is to revive the historical and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and the lakes here are an invaluable part of that heritage", the Lt Governor underscored.

The Lt Governor said that with the inspiration and encouragement of Prime Minister, people of the UT are determined to preserve the natural wealth of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor further said that for three decades, Khushal Sar Lake had dried up and turned into a sewage dump, and it was only after the significant partnership of administration and people, the lake was rejuvenated and returned to its original form. The Prime Minister has also appreciated the efforts of the people of Srinagar and the district administration for the initiative, he added.

"This year, we aim to revive 3600 water bodies in different parts of the UT. I call upon all stakeholders, PRIs and departments to join hands with a resolve to save our natural wealth with collaborative efforts", the Lt Governor said.

Earlier, the Lt Governor along with Mayor SMC, Jumaid Azim Mattu; DDC Chairman Srinagar; Aftab Malik; senior officers and volunteers participated in the Dal cleaning drive.

In his welcome address, Vice Chairman, LCMA, Bashir Ahmad Bhat gave a brief introduction about the Athwas Dal cleaning drive.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dheeraj Gupta Principal Secretary HUDD; Pandurang K Pole, Div Com Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Tourism; Mohammad Aijaz Assad, DC Srinagar, besides senior officers of LCMA and other departments, large number of students from various institutions of district Srinagar were present on the occasion.

Top Lashkar terrorist...

Lashkar-e-Taiba were arrested in Budgam district on Saturday, police said. The duo was arrested from orchard area of Rathsun in Beerwah, they said.

They have been identified as Wajid Yousuf Akhoo, a resident of Rathsun Beerwah, and Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh, a resident of Kawoosa Khalisa.

Incriminating material of the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), arms and ammunition, including a Chinese pistol, two pistol magazines, and 12 pistol rounds have been seized from their possession, police said.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 35/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Beerwah and investigation has been initiated.

India successfully test...

last decade. The ministry said the rocket system has been upgraded with advanced technologies enhancing the range to meet the emerging requirements.

"Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at Pokhran firing ranges," the ministry said in a statement.

"With these trials, the initial phase of technology absorption of EPRS by the industry has successfully been completed and the industry partners are ready for user trials/series production of the rocket system," it added.

The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune, supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another Pune-based laboratory of the DRDO.

After establishing the performance efficacy of the enhanced range version of Pinaka, the technology was transferred to Munitions India Limited (MIL) and Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.

"Rockets manufactured by MIL under transfer of technology from DRDO were flight-tested during this campaign. Different variants of munitions and fuses which can be used in the Pinaka rocket system were also successfully test evaluated in the Pokhran field firing range," the defence ministry said.

DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy has congratulated the teams involved in the project for completing the flight trials of the rockets.

Former minister Babu...

Singh had said that the politician is absconding and he will be traced soon.

"After his questioning, a complete picture will emerge in the case which is linked to Pakistan and separatism some people have already been arrested and the money trail clearly indicated that it was meant for subversive and anti-national activities," he had said. Shah has also disclosed names of his foreign associates including Javed and Khatib of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Farooq Khan of Toronto (Canada), officials said. He was also running a group on social media platforms having members from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia as well, they said.

NDRF DG, CRPF...

said after a few vehicles of a CRPF cavalcade passed, the slain personnel noticed the car "running alongside the convoy and trying to enter between the convoy vehicles".

The brave official "signalled and chased the car to stop but could not match its speed".

"Ultimately, finding no other option, he fired towards the suspicious car from his AK rifle to stop it but the car rammed into a nearby running CRPF bus and a huge blast took place," the citation read.

The sub-officer, who belonged to the 110th battalion of the force, was decorated with the highest President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) for displaying bravery during the incident.

The Centre had declared the medal for Lal on the Republic Day last year.

Karwal, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Gujarat cadre, is currently heading the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

He took charge of the NDRF in November last year while he was serving as the director of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad, the alma mater of IPS officers.

He continues to hold the additional charge of the academy.

Karwal was awarded the bravery medal for a counter-terrorist operation undertaken by him and his troops at the EDI complex in Srinagar in 2016, in which three members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed and around 100 employees of the institute rescued by the CRPF.

The officer was then serving as the inspector general (IG) of the CRPF in the Kashmir valley and this is his second bravery medal.

CRPF Assistant Commandant Naresh Kumar (36) was also decorated with the police medal for gallantry for undertaking a daring operation at a security force camp near the Srinagar airport in 2017 that led to the killing of three terrorists.

This is his seventh gallantry medal, making him the recipient of the highest number of bravery medals in the country's largest paramilitary force.

Kumar was the commander of the Kashmir-based Quick Action Team (QAT) of the CRPF that has undertaken some of the most daring counter-terrorist operations in the valley.

As many as 100 gallantry medals were given away by the home secretary during the event that is held annually to remember the heroic fightback by the CRPF men against a Pakistani brigade at the Sardar post in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch in 1965.

Kashmir getting visitors...

security challenges, be it counter-terrorism, insurgency or Left Wing Extremism.

The CRPF has a good public image in dealing with law and order situations and the home ministry gets maximum demand from states for deploying your force whenever there is a challenge, Bhalla said.

He asked CRPF commanders to use optimum force with skill while dealing with internal security issues.

Bhalla also expressed hope that the troops of the force will ensure good security for the annual Amarnath yatra in Kashmir that is expected to begin in June.

He complimented the force for moving from one conflict theater to the other on a quick notice as he praised its "logistical capabilities."

At times, when you reach for a task, there is no facility....you have to stay in a school or some arrangement....only after sometime local administration provides facilities but we never get complaints (from the CRPF). This is very difficult but your training is very good and this is a big achievement, he told the personnel.

The top home ministry bureaucrat decorated 97 personnel with gallantry medals apart from one posthumously, during the event.

It is in the memory of the battle of April 9, 1965, at Sardar Post in Gujarat that the about 3.25 lakh personnel-strong CRPF observes the 'Valour Day' annually.

The fightback by the force, which was posted for border guarding duties at the time, is considered one of the glorious chapters in the country's military history when only two companies about 150 personnel of the force stood their ground and repulsed the Pakistani attack.

On the intervening night of 8-9 April that year, 3,500 men of the 51st Infantry Brigade of Pakistan and comprising 18 Punjab battalion, eight Frontier Rifles and six Baluch battalion stealthily launched simultaneous assault on the Sardar and Tak Posts under an operation code-named "Desert Hawk".

The retaliation by the CRPF saw the numerically and armament superior Pakistan retreating the areas and leaving behind 34 bodies of their soldiers, including two officers.

Four Pakistani soldiers were taken as hostages while six CRPF men made the supreme sacrifice and the post was saved.

Hafiz Saeed's son...

Pakistan, and during his sermons propagating for jihad against India, Israel, the

United States of America and Indian interests in other western countries, it stated.

The central government believes that Hafiz Talha Saeed is involved in terrorism and he should be notified as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the notification said.

Accordingly, he has been designated as an individual terrorist under the stringent Act.

Hafiz Talha Saeed is now the 32nd individual who has been declared a terrorist by the government.

He was born on October 25, 1975, and is a resident of Lahore in Pakistan.

Hafiz Talha Saeed is a senior leader of the LeT and is the head of the cleric wing of the terrorist organisation.

Hafiz Saeed, founder of the LeT, was the brain behind the Mumbai terror attacks of November 26, 2008, in which 166 people were killed.

He had been declared a terrorist under the same law a few years ago and is currently serving a jail term in Pakistan on terror charges.

India has been consistently seeking Hafiz Saeed's custody but Pakistan has refused to do so. Apart from the 26/11 attacks, the LeT has been responsible for a series of deadly attacks in India, mostly in Jammu and Kashmir, in which scores of civilians and security personnel have been killed over the years.

Hafiz Saeed and the LeT 'operational commander' Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi are among the most wanted terrorists in India for their involvement in numerous terrorist acts.

The LeT is listed as a terrorist organisation under the First Schedule of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The UAPA has been enacted to provide for more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of associations and individuals and for dealing with terrorist activities and for matters connected therewith.

Section 35 of the UAPA empowers the central government to notify the name of an individual in the Fourth Schedule to the Act, if it believes that he is involved in terrorism.

Doors of NC...

the appropriate levels.

"The perception of the public's voice in the administration and the government has decreased due to the backsliding of the democratic set-up, governance deficit and administrative inertia," Abdullah said.

Meanwhile, the NC president and vice president Omar Abdullah extended warm greetings to people on the occasion of Ram Navami.

They said the festival is yet another glaring example of Jammu and Kashmir's abundant cultural richness and hoped that it is observed in the best tradition of brotherhood and gaiety.

Kargil Hill Council...

immediate floor test for smooth functioning of the hill council.

In his order, Sukhdev also said the said six councilors each of BJP and Congress have requested for initiating process under Section 27(2) of the LAHDC Act.

Section 27(2) of the LAHDC provides that the chairman may be removed from office by a resolution carried by a majority of the total number of members at a special meeting of the council called for the purpose upon a requisition made in writing by not less than one-third of such members of the council.

Whereas, keeping in view the political developments in LAHDC, Kargil, it would not be appropriate to go ahead with the GCM till the position of all the councillors is cleared with regard to their support to the present dispensation, the order said, adding keeping in view the unprecedented situation, the GMC is hereby postponed till further notice.

Earlier on March 30, the BJP withdrew its support to the National Conference and recommended the dissolution of the council. However, one of the BJP members Executive Councillor Mohsin Ali rebelled and continued to support Khan.

I am ready for the floor test as I have the numbers the decision to postpone the GCM was not right because the BJP and Congress councillors have not sought the postponement of the GCM but requested for initiation of process under section 27(2) of the LAHDC. Both are two different things, Khan told reporters.

He said the postponement of the GCM will impact the developmental work besides recruitment and other day-to-day activities of the council meant for the public welfare.

We have a limited working season and, therefore, I request the administration to immediately call for the floor test for smooth functioning of the hill council. The developmental activities should not hamper in the district, Khan said.

He said the National Conference had no alliance with either the BJP or the Congress, so their talk of withdrawing support to the chair is technically incorrect. Among the 26 elected members of the LAHDC-Kargil, 10 are from the National Conference, eight are from the Congress, three are from the BJP and five are independents. The Ladakh administration nominates four members to the 30-member council. The 2018 elections to the Council had produced a hung verdict. After the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the NC and the Congress fell out.

The NC then entered into a coalition with two PDP councillors and four independents to continue in power. A few months later, both PDP councillors joined the BJP.

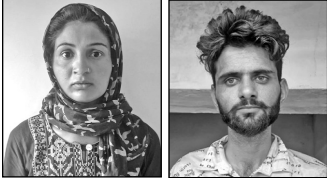
13 arrested for...

likely. Srinagar Police has informed all citizens that any attempt at disrupting peace will be viewed very seriously, strictest action under provisions of law will be taken against all those who get involved in such illegal activities. In addition to this, no attempt at using religious places for furthering anti-national and terrorist agenda will be tolerated at all.

The parents have also been advised to keep a watch on company of their children, indulging in such activities may cause irreparable damage to career prospects.

Two including woman...

substances from the possession of rider and co-rider namely Bablu, wife of Bilal, resident of Railway Road Katra. Duo was arrested and FIR No 105/2022 under sections 8/20/25 NDPS Acts was register against them at Police Station Katra and investigation started to unearth forward and backward linkages.



Temple vandalised by...

temple in the morning and informed the police station concerned, which immediately rushed a team to investigate the matter, the officials said. They said the temple was apparently vandalised by the miscreants on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. "A case has been registered and an investigation is on to bring the culprits to book," a police official said, urging people to maintain communal harmony and foil the nefarious designs of inimical elements to disturb peace.

CRIME REPORT

2 women among 3 narco smugglers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Saturday nabbed three narco smuggler including two women and recovered approximately 41 gm heroin from his possession and also seized a bike.

As per the details, on overall directions of SSP Kathua R C Kotwal, a police team led by Insp Rajinder Khajuria Incharge Police Post Industrial Estates Kathua under supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua Shammii Kumar during patrolling duty near Chack Partap Singh noticed movement of a suspicious motorbike (PB06AS-1620), driven by one Talib Hussain, son of Kala Din, resident of Keerian Tehsil & District Kathua. On search, approximately 16 gm of heroin (Chitta) like narcotics was recovered from his possession. He was arrested, the motorcycle was seized and FIR No. 128/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Kathua.

Meanwhile, a party of Police Station Vijaypur while performing patrolling duty, intercepted two women moving under suspicious circumstances near Rakh Barotian, Vijaypur.



During frisking women by lady police, approximately 25 gm Heroin (Chitta) like substance along with Rs 29,500 cash was recovered. Both the accused women were arrested and contraband item was seized. FIR No. 49/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation started.

2 brothers arrested for murdering father, dumping body into Dal Lake

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday nabbed two brothers for murdering their father and dumping his body into Dal Lake.

As per details, on April 7, 2022, acting on a reliable information that an unidentified body was lying in Dal Lake near Akhoo Mohalla Foreshore road, Police Station Nigeen swung into action and fished out body besides shifting it to hospital for medico-legal formalities. Subsequently, inquest proceedings under section 174 of CrPC were initiated. The deceased was identified as Khurshid Ahamd Tota, son of Ghulam Nabi Tota, resident of Elahibagh Soura.

After medical formalities, dead body was handed over to legal heirs. The preliminary medical report revealed marks on neck etc. After thorough investigation into other suspicious circumstances, it came to fore that deceased has been murdered by unknown persons who threw it into Dal Lake. Accordingly, FIR No. 34/2022 under relevant sections of law



was registered in Police Station Nigeen and investigation started. Through circumstantial evidence, oral witnesses, CCTVs and technical analysis it came to fore that deceased was killed by his family members on evening of April 5 after some altercation and body was kept at home for a day. On evening of April 6, after proper planning, the family members shifted body in a vehicle (i-20) and threw it into Dal lake. Subsequently, both sons of the deceased were arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime was also seized. Further investigation is going on.

7 bootleggers arrested with 474 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an act of alertness and prompt action, police teams from District Jammu recovered 474 bottles of illicit liquor and arrested five persons at three different Nakas.

As per details, information was received through reliable sources regarding sale of illicit liquor in different areas of Jammu. On this, special police teams under supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh were constituted. The team led by SHO Arnia InspR Tilak Raj and SHO Bishnah InspR Vinod Kumar laid special Nakas in their respective jurisdictions and rounded-up five suspects. During search, 400 bottles were recovered from their possession.

On this, three FIRs viz No 27 & 28/2022 under relevant sections were registered at Police Station Arnia and FIR No. 62/2022 under section 48 of Exeise Act was registered at Police Station Bishnah. All the accused were arrested, who were identified as Ramlakhan Yadav, son of Nagender Rai, resident of Bihar at present Teli Basti Bari Brahmana; Vinod Kumar, son of Satori Singh, resident of UP at present Teli Basti Bari Brahmana; Kamal Saini, son of Kaka Ram, resident of Ward-7 Arnia; Manga Ram, son

of Som Nath, resident of Vijaypur Tehsil Vijaypur District Samba and Vinod Kumar, son of Chaman Lal, resident of Prithipur Tehsil Bishnah District Jammu. The overall operation was done under supervision of SP Hqrs Ramnish Gupta.

Meanwhile, a party of Police Station Ramnagar while performing Naka duty at Kirmmoo, near Shahidi Samarak headed by SHO Ramnagar Insp. Pushpinder Singh under supervision of SDPO Ramnagar Dr Bhishm Dubey, stopped a bus (JK02AH 3758) for checking. On frisking of passengers, 74 bottles of Desi Special Whisky were recovered from their possession, who were identified as Kewal Kumar, son of Sudesh Kumar and Gulshan Kumar, son of Romesh Chand, both residents of Sattain, Tehsil, Ramnagar. Duo was arrested on spot and FIR No. 49/2022 under section 48(A) of Exeise Act was registered against them in Police Station Ramnagar.

Riding without helmet will lead to suspension of driving license in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two-wheeler riding in Jammu and Kashmir without helmet will be a costly affair now.

"Whoever rides a motorized two-wheeler without headgear (helmet) shall be punishable with fine of Rs. 1000 and shall be disqualified for holding license for a period of three months," read an advisory.

"Further pillion-rider without headgear (helmet) shall be punishable with fine of Rs.500 for first offence and Rs.1500 for subsequent offence, under Motor Vehicles Act," it added.

"All the motorised two-wheeler riders and pillion-riders shall wear protective gear (helmet) for their own safety and to evade penal action against them, under the Motor Vehicles Act," it stated.

