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Sarpanch shot dead...

"barbaric killing" of Bangroo. "Gruesome act, terrorists have no religion and mercy even during the fasting month of Ramzan," he said.

CAG calls for...

2018-19, 256 UCs for an amount of Rs 1163.42 crore in 2019-20.

The CAG said non-submission and delay in submission of accounts by the bodies receiving substantial funding from the state budget is a serious financial irregularity. "Thus, there was no feedback on activities and financial performance of these bodies," it added.

NGT seeks report...

the Central Pollution Control Board, state pollution control board, nominee of Secretary Irrigation, J-K and District Magistrate, Rajouri.

"The Committee may consider the reports already furnished and if found necessary, undertake a visit to the site and interact with stakeholders. Justice Kotwal may fix his own honorarium to be paid by the State PCB. The registry may forward a copy of the entire record to Justice JB Kotwal to enable the entire matter to be looked into. The report may be filed within three months by email," the bench said.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by village head Arti Sharma against operation of stone crushers in violation of environmental norms in Rajouri district.

The plea said stone crushers are located close to residential areas and Tawi river and illegal borewells have been dug for extraction of ground water.

"Requisite environmental clearance has not been taken. Illegal mining is also done on the bank of Tawi river, using heavy machinery. Air pollution is caused by using vehicles for transportation. This is resulting in lowering of the water level, water scarcity, decreasing agriculture productivity," the plea said.

Six District & Sessions...

Kishore Kumar on 31.03.2022.

In one more order issued by Registrar General that Jatinder Singh Jamwal and Virender Singh, Bhou, District Judges (entry Level) are placed in the Selection Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Higher Judicial Service i.e., Rs. 57700-1230-58930-1380-67210-1540-70200 w.e.f. March 1, 2022 and April 1, 2022 respectively.

One exam pattern...

extended to the new academic session or not will be taken in due course of time," he added.

Under the split term system, the first term board examination was held in December last year and the second term board examination is scheduled to start from April 26.

The rising cases of COVID-19 have sparked concerns of possible school closures yet again even as experts have warned against the long term learning losses caused by prolonged closure.

Several schools in Delhi and NCR have started closing either a specific class or wing wherever the students or staff have been found infected with COVID-19.

If harmed, India...

India and China have held 15 rounds of military talks so far to resolve the eastern Ladakh standoff. As a result of the talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Without making any direct reference to the American pressure with respect to Russia because of the Ukraine war, Singh said India does not believe in a zero-sum game diplomacy.

If India has a good relationship with one country, it does not mean that its relationship with any other country will deteriorate, he said. India has never adopted this kind of diplomacy. India will never opt for this (kind of diplomacy). We don't believe in the zero-sum game in international relationships, he said.

India, he said, believes in having a bilateral relationship which is based on win-win for both the countries.

His remarks came amidst some disquiet in Washington over India's position on the Ukraine crisis as well as its decision to procure discounted Russian oil.

The image of India has changed. The prestige of India has improved. In the next few years, no power in the world can stop India from becoming the world's top three economies, Singh said.

In his address to the Indian community, Singh said that in the past, if any country in the world wanted to develop and prosper, they always thought about establishing a vibrant trade with India.

We should aim at establishing a similar ecosystem in India by the time we celebrate our 100th independence Day in 2047, he said.

The defence minister said that during his last trip to the US in 2013, at a reception in New Jersey he had told a group of Indian Americans that "the success story of India is not over, it is waiting for the BJP to come into power. At that time, people were disappointed with the performance of the then Congress government."

In eight years, he said, the Modi government has "turned around" the country and the image of India has changed for the better.

(Globally) people have now realised that India is no longer a weak country. It is a powerful country of the world. Today India has the potential to lead the world. This potential of India is something that the world has now realised, he said.

Nothing else could be a grand achievement for a country like India in such a short span, he said.

"There have been several prime ministers in India who became the leader of the country after they occupied this post. But like Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi were the country's leaders even before they became the prime minister," he said.

Today we have a new and confident Bharat, he said, adding that India is now headed towards becoming a self-reliant country and the Modi government is taking several important steps in this regard, including in the defence sector, he said.

India has taken several key steps towards indigenisation of its defence sector, he said as he briefly described some of such decisions being taken by the government.

Observing that India has a lot of faith and confidence in the country's IT sector, the defence minister said that Indian talents are playing a major role in the world's IT sector and the Modi government has taken steps towards massive digitisation.

India today, he said, is marching ahead to become an economic power and the government is not only working towards the welfare and prosperity of its people, but also helping people in other parts of the world as well.

India is now among the world's fastest growing economies. Our economy did suffer a setback due to the pandemic. But now we are having a fast recovery, he said.

Regularisation of services...

law. While relying upon judgment of the Supreme Court laid down in case titled Anurag Kumar Singh vs State of Uttarakhand (2016) 9 SCC 426, this Court has held that courts cannot give any direction contrary to the Statute or Rules made there under in exercise of judicial discretion. Taking cue from the judgment of the Apex Court Supra, it is held therein that where there is one lawful option, the discretion does not exist as the discretion assumes the freedom to choose among several lawful alternatives.

DB further observed that contention of R A Jan, senior counsel, that a right has accrued to the respondents for claiming regularization on the basis of the recommendations of the Standing Labour Committee is not well founded as the Standing Labour Committee recommendation cannot be a substitute for the Policy in the shape of Rule or law governing such regularization. DB said that the contention having no substance, merits rejection and held that the regularization of services could be recognized under a particular Rule/ Policy of the Government and not otherwise. There is absolutely no scope for two opinions over it. With these observations, DB allowed the petition and set-aside the impugned order and in consequence whereof the OA filed by the respondents is also dismissed. It goes without saying that nothing observed in this judgment shall prevent the petitioners from considering the ease of the respondents in terms of the policy presently in operation notified in terms of Circular dated 5th September, 2019, which provides for a mechanism for their permanent absorption in the department. The eligibility criteria, in such, eventually, shall not form an impediment for the authorities to take a view favorable to the respondents.

India to get...

deficient. They must be made aware that there is no need to migrate because enough water and fodder is now available in Kutch. This migration also deprives their children of studies. This pains me a lot," said the PM.

Vengeance with which...

"The vengeance with which the BJP is bulldozing India's Constitution has now reached the homes of minorities. "BJP leaders are outdoing each other in stripping Muslims of everything, be it their homes, livelihood and dignity," Mufti said in a series of tweets.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the "silence" of the majority community was "deeply worrying".

"As Kashmiri Muslims, we are often accused of being silent spectators while Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee.

"But the criminal silence of the majority community in today's India while the BJP wrecks the very idea of India is deeply worrying and problematic," Mufti added.

COVID: J&K records...

any fresh case. There are 71 active cases of the infection in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,099, the officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the Union Territory stands at 4,750 as no fresh fatality due to the viral disease was reported in the last 24 hours.

The officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus).



Fire in forests of Bani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A fire broke out in higher reaches of Bani forest areas, however department is trying to control it.

Earlier, fire broke out in compartment-84 which was doused by official of the Forest Department but very next day, it broke out in compartment-83 after which three teams are on job to douse it.

Two injured in separate murderous attacks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two persons were injured in separate murderous attacks on Friday.

As per details, Amit Kumar, resident of Talab Tillo had a spar with one Abhay Singh of Talab Tillo, after which Abhay fired at Amit but he escaped unhurt. Soon after incident, panic gripped in the area and police rushed to the spot. Police has registered a case and launched manhunt to nab accused.

In another incident, two persons were booked in FIR 37/2022 registered under sections 341, 323 of IPC 4/25 of Arms Act after they attacked a man in Gazipur Kuliyan of Miran Sahib area. The accused were identified as Suraj Kumar and Akhsay Kumar, residents of Gazipur, Kuliyan. Meanwhile, two persons were injured in a dispute in Bakshi Nagar area. They were attacked by some persons near Hotel PR. The injured were identified as Sumit Talwar and Pratham Talwar.

Donation box stolen from temple

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Thieves have stolen donation box from a temple in Govind Nagar area of Kathua on Friday. As per details, theft occurred in Ravi Dass Temple from where thieves decamped with a donation box. Management of temple has lodged a complaint with police which has registered a case and started investigation.

Bovine smugglers attack cops, fled away

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bovine smugglers attacked a police party while they were intercepted at Nagrota on Friday.

As per the details, acting on information that some smugglers are taking bovines by foot, police laid a Naka in area and intercepted some suspects with bovines. On questioning, they said that they are Bakkarwals and on being demanded necessary permission for transportation of bovines, they tried to attack the party and fled away. However, some bovines were rescued by police and a case has been registered.

Army Jawan electrocuted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: An army Jawan was electrocuted to death in Khour on Friday.

As per details, one Dewakar Mahoto, posted with 14 Bihar regiment at Khour received electric shock after which he was shifted to hospital, where he was declared as brought dead by doctors.

Man dies in mishap

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A man died in a road mishap at Kathua on Friday.

As per details, one Naseeb Chand, son of Kesar Chand, resident of Kalibari got hit by a bike in the area due to which he got injured. He was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to injuries. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

20 Kanals of wheat crop gutted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: 20 Kanals of wheat crop was gutted in fire at Barnoti and Sandhar areas of Kathua district on Friday. As per details, wheat crop spread over approximately 16 Kanals farm caught fire causing huge losses to three farmers. On receiving information, fire tenders rushed to the spot and doused the fire, but till then crop was reduced to ashes. In another incident, wheat crop in 4 Kanals of field reduced to ashes after it caught fire due to sparks from a nearby transformer. The crop was belonging to one Bimal Devi, wife of Late Madan Lal, resident of Sandhar village.

2 drug peddlers booked under PIT NDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Acting tough against drug peddlers, two notorious drug peddlers were detained under PIT NDPS Act in Budgam.

Earlier two drug habitual offenders and notorious drug peddlers namely Khalid Hussain Sofi, son of Ghulam Mohammad Sofi, resident of Iqbalabad Chrar-i-Sharif and Amir Ahmed Ganji, son of Khazir Mohammad Ganji, resident of Pujj-Mohalla Chadoora were arrested for their involvement in drug peddling. Both were detained under PIT NDPS Act.

Notorious drug peddler arrested; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs, Police on Friday arrested a notorious drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per the details, officers from Police Post Watergam and Police Station Rafiabad under the supervision of SDPO Rafiabad Ameen Bhat at a checkpoint established at Hadipora crossing intercepted a suspect. During search, 7 gm Heroin like substance were recovered from his possession. Identified as Sajad Ahmad Lone, son of Farooq Ahmad Lone, resident of Lorihama Rafiabad, the accused was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR No. 38/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Dangiwacha and investigation started.

6 arrested, 6 vehicles seized for illegal extraction & transportation of minor minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Acting tough against elements involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Police on Friday arrested 6 persons and seized 6 vehicles. As per the details, a party of Police Station Beerwah at a checkpoint established at Narwara Beerwah arrested six persons and seized six vehicles (tippers) for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. The arrested persons were identified as Firdous Ahmed Bhat, son

If harmed, India...

of Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, resident of Hardiwal; Mudasir Ahmed Bhat, son of Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat, resident of Hajigero; Sajad Ahmed Mir, son of Sanaullah Mir, resident of Hajigero; Abdul Majeed Reshi, son of Ghulam Mohammad Reshi, Bashir Ahmed Mir, son of Abdul Aziz Mir and Ghulam Nabi Reshi, son of Mohammad Sidiq, all residents of Mukam Waterihail. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Vehicles bearing registration numbers JK13B-3477, JK04F-1593, JK04F-2019, JK04A-9569, JK01R-5192 & JK04-8263 used in crime were also seized. FIR No. 39/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Beerwah and investigation started.

Absconder arrested after 16 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Continuing its drive to arrest absconders/wanted criminals, Doda Police has arrested an absconder on Friday who was wanted in murder case and was evading arrest for last 16 years.

While giving details, Police said that one absconder namely Prem Lal, son of Roop Chand, resident of Sanwara Tehsil Gandoh was wanted in criminal cases bearing FIR No. 42/2006, under sections 302, 109 of RPC and FIR No. 18/2006 under sections 323, 325 of RPC, registered at Police Station Gandoh and Challan in the Court of Law but he was evading arrest for last 16 years. A special drive was launched by Police in which besides human surveillance, inputs were generated regarding presence of aforesaid absconder to track him. Ultimately, after receiving specific information, a Police team headed by SHO Police Station Gandoh, Vikram Singh assisted by PSI Parvez Ahmed arrested him from Bantabal, Jammu and produced him before the Court where from he was sent to District Jail Bhadarwah.

Two arrested with 110 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MIRAN SAHIB: Police on Friday nabbed two bootleggers and recovered 110 bottles of illicit liquor from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Miran Sahib during Naka at Kullian Miran Sahib intercepted a motorcycle (JK02BE-7253) and during checking, recovered 110 bottles of illicit liquor from two accused, identified as Rajinder Kumar, son of Moti Lal, resident of Badyal Barhmana and Om Parakash, son of Sain Dass, resident of Badyal Barhmana, Tehsil R S Pura. Duo was arrested and FIR No 36/2022 under section 48-A of Excise Act was registered against them at Police Station Miran Sahib.

Two theft cases solved; 3 arrested, stolen wires & gadgets recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday solved two theft cases by arresting three accused and recovered stolen electric wires and gadgets worth Rs 15,000.

As per details, two cases were registered at Police Station Domana regarding theft, after which FIR Nos. 122 & 131/2022 under sections 457/380 of IPC were registered and investigation started. A team of Police Station Domana under the supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh led by SHO Domana Insp. Mahesh Sharma assisted by PSI Danish Qaiser Gazali and PSI Anoop Kumar, after putting hectic efforts, rounded up a suspect namely Tarun Kumar, son of Jatinder Kumar, resident of Udeywala, Jammu. During sustained questioning accused confessed his involvement in crime and revealed name of other accused namely