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### LG expresses firm...

benefits reaching the last mile and active participation in grassroots planning and execution," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said the historic visit of PM Narednra Modi to Palli laid the foundation for making Panchayats in the UT strong and Atmanirbhar. I am proud that Palli is shining in various sectors and it has emerged as a model of rural development, he added.

The Lt Governor highlighted the major steps taken to strengthen grassroots democracy in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor also spoke on progressive policies and schemes aimed at increasing farmers' income, enhance their skills and directly connect them with various Centrally Sponsored and UT's schemes.

The Lt Governor called upon the elected representatives to complement government's efforts in implementation of the groundbreaking 29 projects worth Rs. 5013 crore for the holistic development of agriculture & allied sectors.

I am confident that the success of this holistic agriculture development plan will guide the prosperous future of Jammu and Kashmir and help in doubling the contribution of agriculture sector in UT's GDP in the next 5 years, he said.

The Lt Governor also inaugurated Smriti Kaksh and flagged off 'SwachhtaKarwan' to mark the occasion. A compendium on Amrit Sarovars and Coffee Table Book on the capacity building and training of Elected Representatives of J&K was also released.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament; Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairperson Samba; DDC Chairpersons; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Administrative Secretaries; PRI members, senior officials and a large number of people were present.

### Child marriage prevented...

Panchayat, they said. Protection Officer-Non Institutional Care Touseef Iqbal Butt was deputed to the village and the marriage was stopped after the parents were persuaded with the help of the concerned sarpanch and explained about the drawbacks of the child marriage besides the legalities regarding the offence, the officials said. The parents were informed in detail about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, which does not allow marriage of boys below 21 years and girl below 18 years, they said. Later, the officials said, the boy was handed over to his father through the Child Welfare Committee Kishtwar while PO-NIC was directed to produce the parents of the girl child before the committee for follow-up.

### NIA attaches properties...

Tehsil, Distt. Budgam and Nursing Garh, Mohalla Ram Bagh, have been attached under Section 33(1) of UA(P) Act," the NIA said.

Both Shahid Yusuf and Syed Ahmed Shakeel are lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since their arrests in October 2017 and August 2018. They were chargesheeted on April 20, 2018 and November 20, 2018, respectively. The duo had been receiving funds from abroad from the associates of their father and overground workers of HM, it added.

Salahudeen, who had fled to Pakistan in 1993, was designated as an individual terrorist by India in October 2020. He continues to operate from Pakistan, from where he is guiding and instructing Hizbul cadres as well as activists of UJC, also known as Muttahida Jihad Council (MJC) which is a conglomerate of around 13 Pakistan-based Kashmir centric terror outfits.

Besides instigating and operationalising militant activities in India, primarily in Kashmir valley, Salahudeen has been raising funds and routing finances to India through hawala channels and international money transfer channels for furthering the terrorist activities of HM cadres.

The NIA launched investigations in November 2011 into the criminal conspiracy to raise/collect/provide funds to commit terrorist acts and distribute funds among the terror groups and their sympathizers in J&K for the purpose of committing terrorist acts.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police had initially registered a case in January 2011 and the case was subsequently taken over by the NIA. Chargesheets as well as supplementary chargesheets were filed against eight accused in the case, including in 2011 and 2018.

The NIA has launched a crackdown on terror funding machinery in a bid to dismantle the terrorist financing ecosystem operating in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of individuals based in Pakistan and other countries.

### Ladakh standoff: India...

border meeting point on the Chinese side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

"The two sides had a frank and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western sector so as to restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which will enable progress in bilateral relations," the MEA said.

"In line with the guidance provided by the state leaders and further to the meeting between the two foreign ministers in March 2023, they had an exchange of views in an open and candid manner," it added.

"In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector." The government refers to eastern Ladakh as Western sector.

People familiar with the talks said the Indian side insisted on resolving the issues at the remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh as soon as possible.

### Reservation based on ...

reservation even today and we are giving, but no one should be given reservation based on religion, it is the fundamental spirit of the Constitution," he added.

Just ahead of the announcement of polls in Karnataka, the State Cabinet led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had decided to scrap the four per cent reservation for Muslims under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota and to distribute it equally among the dominant Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities.

Earlier, the government had decided to increase reservation for SCs from 15 per cent to 17 per cent and for STs from 3 per cent to 7 per cent, taking the total reservation in Karnataka to 56 per cent, exceeding the 50 per cent cap, and recommended to the Centre to bring it under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

With a section of Scheduled Castes demanding internal reservation alleging that only

a few influential sub-castes were taking away a majority of the benefits while many communities were still marginalised, the Cabinet had also made a recommendation in this regard to the Centre.

Asserting that there is no single instance of a non-Lingayat being given a ticket replacing a Lingayat, Shah hit out at the Congress by asking as to what the party did for the community.

"In their history Congress made two Lingayats Chief Ministers, both were humiliated and removed, one was removed by Indira Gandhi, while the other was humiliated and removed from airport by Rajiv Gandhi, I'm speaking about Patil Saab (Veerendra Patil), Congress cannot speak on this," he said, as he added that BJP respects all communities and tries to take along everyone.

Asked about family members of politicians getting tickets, while BJP accused JD(S) of parivarvaad (dynastic), the Union Minister said, unlike in JD(S), in BJP party president and Chief Ministers are not decided on the basis of the family. "Tell me someone who is not contesting polls in JD(S) family (Deve Gowda family), other than one or two."

"BJP is always against parivarvaad in the main system, at many places family members of party karyakartas may contest polls, but it doesn't mean BJP follows parivarvaad," he said.

To a question on Muslims not getting tickets from BJP, he said, "Tickets were given on the basis of merits of winnability, we do not believe in the concept of majority or minority."

Responding to a question on Congress seeking support of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), Shah said, Congress party earlier used to take the support of Popular Front of India (PFI); now that it has been banned, it is asking support of its SDPI which is the political wing. "For Congress, secure and safe Karnataka is not important, winning elections is important. BJP will not join hands with such parties.

Jagadish Shettar quitting BJP will cause no loss to the party, he said, adding that "Jagadish Shettar will lose the election, Hubballi has always voted for BJP not to any person. BJP workers are united....reason for him not being given the ticket was conveyed to him."

Jagadish Shettar is contesting from Hubballi Dharwad Central constituency as Congress candidate.

On Shettar and former Deputy CM Laxman Savadi (who too quit the party recently), alleging that Lingayats were being humiliated in the BJP and holding party General Secretary B L Santosh responsible for it, Shah said, "BJP believes in team work and is not under any control of anyone. BJP Chief Minister (Bommai) himself is a Lingayat, what are they speaking (about party humiliating Lingayats)?"

In response to a question, he expressed confidence about BJP performing well and getting success in the Old Mysuru region, where the party is considered to be weak. "The BJP has entered the election race with the confidence of forming a full-majority government in Karnataka."

Hitting out at the opposition parties, Shah said for Congress, welfare of Karnataka and its development is not an issue, and it is just grappling for its ATM in Karnataka; while on the other hand the JD(S) is a dynastic party that confronts Congress in the election but sides with it after the election only to gain power.

### Three Hizbul OGWs...

for UT, whereas Adv Rajinder Singh Janwal for accused, observed that on the existence of aggregating and mitigating circumstances the evaluation thereof, this courts comes to the conclusion that the aggravating circumstances are much grave and serious than the mitigating circumstances, as such, in the considered opinion of the court the convicts does not deserve any leniency while imposing the sentence upon them. The aggravating circumstances in the present case outweigh the mitigating circumstances because the accused are involved in the commission of offence under the provisions of Unlawful Activities Act for commission of terrorist activities, by raising/collecting funds and providing the same to the members of banned terrorist HM. The terrorist act can destabilize governments, undermine civil society; Jeopardize peace, and security; threaten economic and social development and may especially negatively affect certain groups. It disrupts livelihoods, increase violence and fear; affects production of all sectors of economy; destroy infrastructure and has resulted in bloodshed.

Court after hearing APP Anil Magotha observed that imprisonment for life is the adequate and just sentence commensurate with act of the accused in committing the offence.

"Accused are sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life and with fine of Rs 10,000 each for commission of offence under Section 17 of UA(P) Act and further sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life with fine of Rs 10,000 each for commission of offence under Section 21 of UA(P) Act. However, both the punishments shall run concurrently," the Court directed.

### Union Secy DDWS...

collection and solid waste segregation at village level to elevate their tag from Open Defecation Free (ODF) to ODF Plus by the end of 2023-24. Furthermore, it was highlighted that plastic waste needs to be segregated, shredded and packed in the form of bales for scientific disposal.

During the meeting, Union Secretary said that solid waste needs to be segregated at household level. He congratulated the UT administration for last year's progress under Swachh Bharat Mission. She also encouraged further momentum in solid waste management.

The meeting also covered updates on Jal Jeevan Mission works including increase in number of households having a supply of tap water from around 6 lakh to over 11 lakh since 2019.

Union Secretary asked the UT Jal Shakti Department to expedite and complete all pending Jal Jeevan Mission works and ensure participation of Pani Samitis for regular inspection and assessment of water supply projects. She also insisted on regular water quality testing by the Samitis and other stakeholders.

Union Secretary directed that signages containing all relevant information be installed at every water supply project, clearly mentioning information about their execution, operation and funding. She emphasised the importance of community ownership and responsibilities for success of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Union Secretary also had interactions with Deputy Commissioners and sought their feedback regarding the flagship schemes and their implementations in the districts. The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary Rural Development, Mandeep Kaur, Secretary in Jal Shakti Department, Deepika Sharma and MD Jal Jeevan

sion of SSP Ramban Mohita Sharma.

### Traffic police launches special drive against overloading

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: A special drive was conducted against overloading of vehicles by Traffic Police in tehsil Mendhar of district

Poonch. DySP Traffic Rajouri Poonch Nawaz Ahmed along with SOT traffic Mendhar Younis Khan and traffic officials laid traffic Naka at Dhaki Mendher and Sangla Chowk jointly a n d Challedan/seized many vehicles.

The vehicles coming from M a n k o t e , Uchchad Lower Kg , Kalaban, Topa, Salwa Pathanateer, Harni, Ari , Sadhoti, Gursai, Dhargloon area were stopped on both Traffic Nakas and documents of vehicles and strength of passengers were thoroughly checked besides imposing fine under motor vehicle act accordingly. The exercise has been done to check traffic norms violation in far flung areas and to ensure safety of passengers in these areas. It has been observed that drivers overload their vehicles during morning and evening hours due to which passengers face a lot of difficulties. A total of 54 vehicles were challaned in which 7 vehicles seized and 31 were challaned for overloading. The exercise has been done under close supervision SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, Faisal Qureshi. Moreover, challaning officers also warned drivers not to indulge in overloading and over-speeding of vehicles and put innocent public in danger.

### Govt employee arrested for raping woman after posing as 'Tantrik'

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Under overall supervision of SSP Samba Benam Tosh, Police on Monday arrested PHE employee for raping a

middle-aged woman in guise of a 'Tantrik' after inducing her to visit his house on pretext of healing her skin disease with 'Tantra-Mantra' , 'Charnamrit' & 'Vibhuti'.

Police has registered a rape case vide FIR No 23/2023 under section 376 of IPC at Police Station Ramgarh, district Samba on directions of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Samba and further investigation is underway. The victim,

middle-aged woman, had filed an application before the court of CJM Samba alleging therein that accused had committed rape on her posing himself as a 'Tantrik' possessing supernatural healing powers effective enough to cure her skin disease. She further alleged in application that she along with her sister had gone to Baba Siddh Goriya temple, Swankha from where accused took her to his house, where he locked door from inside, gave 'Charnamrit' & 'Vibhuti' to her after which she got unconscious and accused committed rape on her. The court of CJM Samba got conducted preliminary enquiry through police and on receiving preliminary enquiry report, issued directions to register FIR under relevant sections of law. The arrested accused has been identified as an employee (Fitter) of PHE Department namely Subash Chander, son of Durga Dass, resident of village Rarian, tehsil Ramgarh. The arrest was made by police team comprising SHO police station Ramgarh Sudesh Kumar and PSI Vikrant Kotwal under the supervision of Additional SP Samba SurinderChoudhary.

### Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Police in its continuous drive against anti-social elements, detained a notorious narco smuggler from Sarkoot, Kishtwar and recovered 3 gm heroin from his possession. Kishtwar Police developed specific information and accordingly special Nakas was established at Sarkoot area led by Insp Abid Bukhari SHO Kishtwar under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Ashish Gupta. Police arrested a drug-peddler and recovered Heroin (Chitta) like substance weighing about 3 gm from him. The accused was identified as Rameez Raja, son of Ab. Qayoom, resident of Sarkoot Kishtwar. FIR No. 87/2023 was registered against him at Police Station Kishtwar under relevant sections of law.

Mission, G N Itoo besides other senior officers from various departments in person and virtually.

### Dir FSL appointed...

in-depth enquiry into the charges framed against Inderjeet Lal, Deputy Director, Prosecution Department (presently attached in Home Department)," reads an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department J&K.

Further; it added, Prashant Mahajan, CPO in the Office of DG Prosecution J&K shall be the Presenting Officer for the case.

"The Inquiry Officer shall complete the enquiry and submit his report/ recommendations to the Home Department within a period of thirty days from the date of issue of this order," it stated.

### Poonch terror attack...

army jawans, officials said. A sniper is believed to have targeted the army truck from front before his associates showered bullets and lobbed grenades at it from opposite sides, apparently giving the troops no time to retaliate, they added.

"Terrorists used steel core bullets that can penetrate an armoured shield," officials said, adding, "before fleeing, the terrorists also stole soldiers' arms and ammunition."

The armoured vehicle was found riddled with more than 50 bullet marks, they said.

During the search operation, troops came across a few natural cave hideouts in the area, which could possibly have been used by the terrorists in the past, they said, adding the troops are also looking for any improvised explosive devices (IEDs) terrorists may have planted in the densely forested areas, especially in deep gorges and caves.

### Tulip Festival at...

association with Empryrean Skyview Pvt. Ltd. And Hotel Association, Patnitop.

The First Day would witness Cultural Performances by local artists - Ronak Thakur, Performance by Celebrity Singer - Sangram Hanjira, Nature Walk, Display/showcase of local products, Art, Craft etc and Other Activities.

Similarly, Cultural Performances by local artists - Subash Brahmanu & party, Trekking (Sanasar to Shankhpal), Horse Race, Boat Race, Display/showcase of local products, Art, Craft would be held on Day 2.

Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, while addressing the media, said that the Sanasar Tulip Festival is a must attend event for Nature Lovers, Tulip Lovers, Adventure Enthusiasts etc.

The two day event shall showcase the rich culture the UT has and is a celebration of nature's beauty.

While briefing the media on Monday, Sher Singh, CEO, Patnitop Development Authority said that this year a huge number of locals and tourists thronged Sanasar to get a glimpse of the blooming tulips in the garden. This event is a part of visit Patnitop series where the visitor can enjoy adventure sporting Events and scintillating cultural performances by renowned and local artists of Jammu Division at Sanasar.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu while speaking to the media said that during spring the tulip garden at Sanasar transforms itself into a breathtaking landscape of colourful hues making it a photographer's paradise. This festival shall offer a host of activities for visitors, including cultural programs, handicraft exhibitions, horse race competition, boat race competition etc. The festival has been a great success in the past and the authorities are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that this year's festival is even better:

Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism, Publicity while inviting the media personnel and general public said that with its stunning display of tulips and cultural programs and adventure activities the festival shall surely offer an unforgettable experience. With the involvement of local youth, such activities shall surely enhance the tourist influx in the region thereby boosting the local economy.

### Mayor stresses on...

environment. "This will also ensure clean Jammu and shrinking of water bodies shall also be prevented by this while the polythene already in use shall be reused for macedmisation of roads and in industrial purposes," he added.

Prominent among those present in the event from FLO JKL included Aarti Chowdhary, Vice Chairperson Pooja Gandotra, Joint Treasurer; Mona Saraf, Secretary, Chandni Kapoor; Joint Secretary Kamakshi Diwan, Purnima Chowdhary, Shweta Chowdhary, Nandita Bajaj, Ridhima Diwan, Dr. Sandeep Khosla, Ridhima Jain, Parakh Jain and Pooja Khuranna.

### Govt constitutes panel...

that such projects are focused on addressing gaps in various sectors," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department. As per order, the committee will be headed by Administrative Secretary, Finance Department as its Chairman while Director Finance (Resources) will be its Member Secretary and Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Administrative Secretary of the concerned Department and Representative of General Administration Department (not below the rank of Special/Additional Secretary to the Government) will be its Members.

### RASC Jindrah honours Luli Cabrera from Argentina

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under its worldwide love, brotherhood and friendship mission among the Roller Skaters, a local club of Jammu namely Roller Athlete Skating Club Jindrah honoured Luli Cabrera from Argentina at Salvador (Brazil). Luli started her sports career as a Field Hockey player and later shifted to Roller Hockey. She has played at all the levels in Argentina and presently, playing from Club Salto Grande in Argentina and is the one of the best veteran Roller Hockey players. She thanked Roller Athlete Skating Club Jindrah for the honour and appreciated their worldwide mission of spreading love and brotherhood among roller skaters. She also assured full support and cooperation towards the mission.



### LG inaugurates blood donation camp, solo exhibition



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating blood donation camp organised by Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation in Jammu.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated a blood donation camp organised by Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation at Shastri Nagar Jammu, on Monday.

The Lt Governor appreciated the noble initiative of Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation and stressed on encouraging the life-saving act in society in the form of blood donation.

"Blood donation is a great service to humanity. It is a gift of life and I urge all the citizens to come forward and donate blood", said the Lt

Governor. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also inaugurated the solo exhibition of installation and sculptures by renowned Sculptor, Ravinder Jamwal at Birpur.

The Lt Governor appreciated the collection and said that Jamwal's works are iconic and the visual effects carry a superb sense of rhythm and creative expression. On the occasion, the Lt Governor also interacted with the PRI members and emphasized on eradicating the menace of drug abuse with collective efforts of all.

### Pedestrian dies in road mishap

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A pedestrian was killed in a road mishap in Pouni Chak area on Monday. As per details, a man who was crossing road in Anand Nagar area, got hit by an unknown vehicle and got injured. He was taken to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead. The body was kept in morgue for identification.