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J&K records 3,733...

various pressure levels. The oxygen supply audit will depict available resources, as well as arrangements, being made to increase supply in the future.

The Chief Secretary also directed establishment of an oxygen war room headed by the Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce with subsidiary war rooms under respective Divisional Commissioner to monitor and manage supply and distribution of oxygen in Jammu and Kashmir by coordinating with suppliers and user agencies. Meanwhile, the Health & Medical Education Department was asked to ensure optimal uses of oxygen across the hospitals with minimal wastage.

Further, Divisional Commissioners were directed to establish 24x7 call centres in Srinagar and Jammu for proper patient management and strict implementation of hospital referral policy. They were asked to advertise the helpline numbers in print, electronic and social media, besides, circulating them among the larger population through bulk text messages by using Swasthya Nidhi data.

It was informed that COVID call centres will be operated by a team supported by medical professionals. They will collect vital information from patients and suitably direct them to triage points for seeking medical advice and assistance. The COVID triage points will be established at district hospitals, CD hospitals at Jammu and Srinagar, and at the emergency blocks of GMC, Jammu/Srinagar, and SKIMS, Srinagar.

The Chief Secretary reiterated strict implementation of hospital referral policy for efficient patient management across the hierarchy of COVID care hospitals with access to tertiary healthcare reserved for critically ill patients. Accordingly, Divisional Commissioners were asked to ensure optimal utilization of resources, wherein the tertiary hospitals would only admit critical COVID patients being referred from district hospitals and walk-in patients would first be evaluated at triage points and suitably referred to proper healthcare facilities based on the severity of infection.

Emphasizing that only vaccination will retard the rate of COVID transmission, the Chief Secretary said that vaccination rate should be maintained. He directed Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir in consultation with Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporation to establish mobile vaccination centres with arrangements for AEFI management closer to the residential areas and vaccinate the eligible population amidst ongoing restrictions.

Financial Commissioner, Finance, Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education, Principal Secretary, Home, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, besides, Divisional Commissioners, Kashmir and Jammu, Commissioners, Municipal Corporations, Jammu and Srinagar, Mission Director, National Health Mission along with experts from GMC Jammu, IIT Jammu and SMVDU participated in the meeting.

School Education Deptt...

staff shall conduct online classes only from their homes as per guidelines issued earlier," he said in a order.

However, the order stated, none of staff member is exempted from duties being assigned by Divisional Commissioner/District Disaster Management Authorities/District Magistrates in case of any exigency and even where some institutions are allowed to be opened by a specific or general order, educational institutions are strongly advised to take full safety precautions especially by ensuring social distancing, staggered attendance, maintaining sanitation and hygiene, early identification and isolation of suspect cases.

Pakistan opens fire...

along IB at 0615 hours in Ramgarh sector", Inspector General of BSE, Jammu frontier, N S Jamwal, told PTI here.

There was no casualty in the firing. The BSF spokesman said Pakistani troops opened unprovoked firing on a patrolling party ahead of the fencing.

India and Pakistan had agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors in the February agreement.

The two countries had earlier signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but it was hardly followed in letter and spirit with more violations than observance of the pact.

Former PRO to...

(Forest Guard), the then PRO to the then Deputy Chief Minister, J&K, is hereby placed under suspension, with immediate effect, in terms of Rule 31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

LG for constituting...

for ensuring implementation of an effective COVID Management plan from District level to the villages at Panchayat level.

Emphasizing on proper functionality of oxygen generation plants, the Lt Governor asked the Divisional Commissioners to keep a close monitoring on functioning of these oxygen generation plants, besides ensuring uninterrupted 24x7 power supply to the oxygen plants and an alternative backup of oxygen supply.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary briefed that two divisional level committees have been constituted to ensure proper and judicious utilization of Oxygen supply, audit of the availability and consumption of oxygen in all hospitals across UT, assess the requirement of each hospital, besides the amount of back up and buffer stock required.

It was also informed that three war rooms have also been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Industries & Commerce to coordinate and ensure supply of oxygen and check hoarding.

The Lt Governor directed the Health department to ensure the availability of Doctors through online mode for all patients (COVID and Non COVID) to provide them necessary medical advice.

The Lt Governor further suggested for roping in religious leaders and elected representatives for creating awareness among the people regarding the advisories and SOPs of Union Health Ministry and J&K's Health department to combat COVID-19 spread.

While stressing upon the efforts to reach out to the people with correct information, the Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners and SPs to provide factual information on COVID situation to counter miscreants at the District level itself.

Directions were also passed to the concerned officers for completion of the payments under MGNREGA within 10 days instead of 15 days, on priority basis, besides ensuring continuous extension of pensions and benefits of various beneficiary oriented schemes.

The Lt Governor also shared with all DCs and SPs, the decisions and suggestions brought out during an Apex Group meeting. He stressed for judicious and rational admission of COVID patients from level-1 and level-2 hospitals to level-3 hospitals.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Arun Kumar Mehta, Financial Commissioner, Finance Department; Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department and Information Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the

Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Sh. Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Choudhary Mohammad Yasin, Mission Director, NHM and HoDs of various departments attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

Congress attacks BJP...

have expressed serious concern over harassment and coercion of the stone crusher owners and forcing them to pay 'hafta'.

"This is just a tip of the iceberg", they said, adding that the ball is now in the court of the Prime Minister.

They termed the disclosures as test case for the Modi government and the UT administration, saying heads should roll to send a strong message as otherwise people will further lose faith in the system if such a serious issue is put under the carpet or the senior leader is silenced who has dared to narrate the hardships faced by the people, especially the business people and others in the present set up, contradicting the hollow claims of the BJP. "BJP leadership is least bothered about the sufferings of various sections of the society", the Congress leaders said, alleging that the party was shielding the corrupt elements in the system.

Prominent among the signatories to the joint statement included former ministers and Vice Presidents, Raman Bhalla, Mula Ram, Kanta Bhan, Ravinder Sharma, Rajnisha Sharma; General Secretaries Yogesh Sawhney, Manmohan Singh, Shiv Dev Singh, Ex MLA, Ashok Sharma Ex MLA, Th Balbir Singh Ex MLA and others.

MoS PMO Dr...

either produce any proof for such serious allegations and tender apology publically within next 24 hours or face defamation for Rs one Crore.

"We don't know what frustration the ex MLC had, which led him to hold a press conference", said Sanjeev, adding that Randhawa is a senior party leader and they only ask him to either produce any proof or tender an apology.

Meanwhile, District Mining Officer (DMO), Ankur Sachdeva told reporters that he has obeyed the Court orders, on whose directions illegal mining was stopped in the River Tawi bed. "Randhawa is also having a crusher and he was among those indulging in illegal mining which was banned by the Court after a PIL was filed," said Sachdeva.

BJP serves show...

file your reply along with evidence, if any available with you, within next two days and on receipt of reply from you, next date in matter will be fixed".

Pertinent to mention, proceedings will be held expeditiously and report will be submitted to Party President of Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party within two weeks positively, according to party sources.

The show-cause notice has been signed by Sunil Sethi, Chairman, Disciplinary Committee, Virenderjeet Singh and R D. Rajwal, both members.

ACB nabs Principal...

which caught Rajeev Mahajan, Principal Kendriya Vidyalaya Doda red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe from the complainant. The bribe amounting to Rs 15,000 was also recovered on the spot. He was arrested and taken in custody by ACB team, the official said, adding that further investigation of case is going on.

Six JKAS officers...

Gupta, Raman Kumar Gupta, Showkat Hussain Mir. Consequently upon their promotion to Special Scale, the aforesaid officers have been designated as Directors Finance in their respective Departments, the order fur-

ther stated.

Three Govt officials...

Officials said the three officials were named in separate FIRs and also underwent detention.

Naik, a resident of Kulgam, was arrested in March from his rented accommodation in Udhampur, where he was posted about a fortnight back, in connection with four pending cases about radicalisation of youth in his south Kashmir home town, the officials said.

Similarly, they said two FIRs are registered against Jan, a resident of north Kashmir Kupwara district, in police station Kralpora for allegedly inciting people to violence in 2010 and 2016. He had also undergone four months of detention under Public Safety Act.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and J&K Apni Party President and former minister Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari have reacted sharply to the sacking of the government employees.

Illegal crowd-funding...

contact the particular family and share a small amount of money with them on the condition that they would claim to be satisfied and in possession of the entire amount. In some cases, they fully swindle the money and disappear", said an official.

"Some of them collect Rs 30 lakh and share Rs 5 lakh with a family. The family states that it was satisfied and it had no complaint against the person having collected the money through Facebook page. It's a completely fraudulent process of crowdfunding with no control or supervision of the law enforcement authorities", said the officer, demanding a regular investigation by the Crime Branch into all such contributions collected by different individuals and so-called NGOs through Facebook.

Sometime back a news portal with no authorisation from the Government made an appeal for donations for a poor girl of Ganderbal. An amount of Rs 1.25 crore was reportedly collected in the bank account given by the news portal. Later, it surfaced that the bank account belonged to the operator of the news portal. District authorities in Ganderbal summoned the news portal operator for questioning.

Thereafter, nobody knew whether the officials reconciled the matter with the news portal operator and handed over the full amount of Rs 1.25 crore to the poor girl.

"It is all deceitful. If somebody comes forward with a philanthropic purpose and good intention, why shouldn't he publish the phone number and the bank account of the person or the family for whom he seeks support?", asked a senior advocate at Jammu and Kashmir High Court, adding, "Any such crowdfunding without accountability and transparency is illegal and a crime punishable by law".

Lt Governor announces...

Government Medical Colleges and Health department who are going to retire from May, 2021 to November, 2021.

The tenure in respect of the doctors presently undergoing various tenure postings viz Registrarship, Demonstratorship, Fellowship, Senior/Junior Residency etc in SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar/Bemina; Government Medical Colleges of the Union Territory have also been extended up to 31st December, 2021.

The decision was taken to optimally utilize the experiences of these medical professionals to effectively deal with the evolving COVID situation.

Northern Command to...

of patients who get critical is the cornerstone of the Northern Command's strategy", he said.

Contact details of the nodal officers have been widely circulated, the spokesman said.

Helpline numbers shared and publicised through different media are being manned 24x7, he added.

CRIME REPORT

6 bovines rescued, smuggler held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: In continuation to strict measures initiated to thwart conspiracies of bovine smugglers, Lakhapur Police succeeded in foiling bovine smuggling bid and rescued 6 bovines. The vehicle involved in commission of aforesaid crime was also seized.

As per details, a team of Police Post Basantpur while on Naka checking duty near Basantpur road noticed a Mahindra load carrier (PB35Q-7287) coming from Mahanpur towards Punjab, which was signalled to stop for checking. On seeing police, the driver of aforesaid vehicle parked it away from Naka point and fled away while his associate along with vehicle was arrested by Naka party, who was identified as Sher Ali, son of Gami, resident of Basantpur. On search, 6 bovines were rescued from aforesaid vehicle, which were being transported to Punjab without legal permission.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 60/2021 under Section of 188 IPC and 11 of PCA Act was registered at Police Station Lakhapur and further investigation into this matter has been initiated.

Patwari among 8 drug peddlers arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA/ JAMMU/ BANIHAL/ SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from society, Police has arrested eight drug peddlers including a Patwari and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Post Ramkot during Naka/Checking duty at Galak-Dayala Chak road intercepted a car (DL4CAF-8404), which was on its way from Dayala Chak towards Chellan, Ramkot being driven by Simranjeet Singh, son of Surjit Singh, resident of Nijjer, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak District Gurdaspur (Punjab). Two other persons, who were also travelling in aforesaid car were identified as Mohd Ramzan, son of Nazir Ahmed, resident of Gurah-Kalyal Tehsil Ramkot District Kathua, presently working as Patwari at Patwar Halqa Gurah Kalyal and Arshdeep Singh, son of Balraj Singh, resident of Fazlabad Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur (Punjab). On search, police recovered 12 gm of heroin like substance from their possession. The trio was arrested and a case vide FIR No. 68/2021 under sections 8/21/22/29 of NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Billawar.

Meanwhile, a police patrolling party from Police Station Gharota under supervision of SHO Gharota observed a person roaming in Amb area, in sheer violation of DM order and COVID guidelines. He was apprehended and after his personal search, about 3 gm of heroine like substance was recovered. The accused, identified as Ghar Singh, son of Rattan Singh, resident of Thati Gharota Tehsil Bhalwal, was arrested and accordingly, FIR under Sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act and

188 of IPC was registered against him. While, Banihal police also intercepted a pedestrian while routine patrolling and recovered 105 gm Charas from his possession. The accused was identified as Shakir Ahmed, son of Mohd Abdullah Mir, resident of Chaehihal Tehsil-Banihal district Ramban. In this connection, a case vide FIR No. 82/2021 under section 8/20 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Banihal. The arrest as well as recovery was made by SHO Police Station Banihal Nayeem ul Haq on the directions of Ashish Gupta, SDPO Banihal and under close supervision of Addl SP Ramban Rajni Sharma and overall supervision of SSP Ramban P D Nitya.

In another incident, officers from Police Station Sheeri at a checkpoint established at Sheeri Market intercepted three persons riding a Scooty bearing registration number JK05H-4903. They were identified as Mohammad Amin Sheikh son of Ghulam Rasool Sheikh, Nisar Ahmad Parray son of Mohammad Yusuf Parray and Sajad Ahmad Malla son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Malla, all residents of Kitchama Sheeri. During checking, officers were able to recover 150 gm Charas from their possession. They were arrested and shifted to police station where they remained in custody. The scooty used in the commission of crime has also been seized. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Sheeri and investigation has been taken up.

17 arrested, 20 vehicles seized for illegal mining & transportation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Police has arrested seventeen persons and seized 20 vehicles involved in illegal extraction and transportation of raw materials in Baramulla and Bandipora.

In Baramulla, police parties from Police Station Kreeri and Police Post Mirdung arrested 7 persons and seized 6 tractors & a JCB machine involved in illegal extraction and transportation of raw materials at Odina, Yakhampora, Diver areas. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody.

Similarly in Bandipora, on specific information, a Police Party from Police Post Ajas along with teams of Mining and Geology Department seized 3 vehicles and arrested 10 persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of raw materials at SK Bala Ajas, Sumbal. They were also shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in concerned police stations and investigations have been taken up.

Meanwhile, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din, District Mineral Officer (DMO), Geology & Mining department, Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad Shah on Monday conducted raids in Nallah Mawar of Kupwara district to curb illegal extraction of minor minerals.

During raids, the DMO seized ten vehicles (7 tippers and 3 tractors) carrying bajri, sand/silt illegally extracted from the Nallah, which were handed over to Station House Officer Langate under Challan Nos.1001, 1002, 1003, 1004.

On the occasion, the DMO warned the offenders to desist from illegal extraction of minor minerals, adding that stern action under rules shall be taken against them. He said that vehicles were seized under Mines & Minerals Act 1957 under Section 21 delegated under J&K Minor Mineral Concession,

Storage, Transportation of minerals and prevention of illegal mining rules 2016 issued vide SRO 105 of 2016.

2 timber smugglers arrested; illicit timber seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Police in Bandipora arrested two timber smugglers and seized illicit timber.

Acting on specific information about timber smuggling in village Aloosa, a party from Police Post Aloosa under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Bandipora raided the spot and recovered 40 CFTS of illicit timber which was dumped by smugglers. The police party also arrested two accused, identified as Abdul Rahim Ganie and Abdul Rahim Wani, both residents of Aloosa, involved in smuggling of illicit timber.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR number 61/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Bandipora and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

Bike stolen

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Thieves on Monday stole a bike from Bathindi area. As per details, Sayed Zulqumain Bass, son of Baghdad Hussain Shah, resident of Balakote Tehsil of Mendhar Poonch, presently residing Near Shia Masjid Bathindi Jammu lodged a complaint with Narwal Police that thieves have stolen his bike (Royal Enfield Classic 350 bearing registration No JK02BX 9644), from near Shia Masjid Bathindi. Acting on the complaint, police has registered a case vide FIR No 131 under Section 379 of IPC at Police Post Narwal and started investigation.

Minor girl dies in mishap

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
GANDERBAL: A minor girl was killed in a road accident at Mamer area of Kangan area in Ganderbal on Monday.

As per the details, a Grand i10 (JK01AB/3657) hit a pedestrian identified as Khalida, 14, daughter of Angrez Ali, resident of Thakery Pati Mamer, Kangan at Mamer Kangan, leaving her critically injured. She was immediately shifted to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kangan wherefrom she was referred to SKIMS for further treatment, where she succumbed. A case in this regard has been registered and investigation taken up.

Hardware shop gutted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A hardware shop gutted in a blaze at Sainik Colony area on Monday.

As per details, a fire broke out in second floor of Ajit Enterprises situated at Sainik Colony, after which locals informed fire tenders which rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Goods worth lakhs were damaged in the incident. The shop belonged to one Rakesh Choudhary.

Six acre wheat crop damaged in fire

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Six acre wheat crop was reduced to ashes after a fire engulfed fields in Miran Sahib area on Monday.

As per details, the fields of wheat belonging to Sai Dass and

Parasram caught fire due to high temperature. The farmers informed fire tenders but till then the crop was reduced to ashes. Affected farmers have demanded adequate compensation from the Government.

GREF employee dies of cardiac arrest

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: A GREF' employee died of cardiac arrest in Poonch on Monday.

As per details, Ktan B, resident of Kerma, posted at Poonch fell unconscious and was shifted to hospital, where doctors declared him as brought dead.

Kid dies in mishap

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: A kid died in a mishap at Samba on Monday.

As per details, Chetan Kumar, son of Mohan Lal, resident of Shabbalod who was playing near his house, was hit by an unknown vehicle, due to which he got injured. He was shifted to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

Man under treatment at GMC succumbs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A man, who was undergoing treatment at GMC Jammu, succumbed on Monday. As per details, Rohit Kumar, son of Dharam Pal, resident of Beri Pattan was admitted in GMC on April 25, 2021 vide MLC no 2129, after falling from a wall at Beri Pattan (relative's house) expired. The body was shifted to mortuary room for postmortem.

COVID-19: 629 violators fined, 46 FIRs registered, 81 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Since outbreak of 2nd wave of Coronavirus, J&K Police has enhanced its efforts to sensitise masses about controlling the highly contagious coronavirus. Slew of measures including restrictions under Section 144 have been put into place to contain spread of COVID-19. In view of the record surge in daily cases across Kashmir Valley, Police has also enhanced efforts to implement the COVID-19 guidelines/SOPs/ restrictions strictly throughout the valley. During last 24 hours, Police has arrested 81 persons, lodged 46 FIRs and realized fine to the tune of Rs 93,620 from 629 people for violating guidelines/rules throughout Kashmir valley. Besides, 3 vehicles were also seized in Budgam for violating guidelines/restrictions. The special drive against the violators of COVID-19 guidelines/rules continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs/ guidelines envisaged by government to curb COVID-19 pandemic. In Budgam, SSP Tahir Saleem held an interaction with DDCs at District Police Office Budgam while following social distancing norms and other protocols. During interaction, SSP Budgam briefed DDCs about their role and responsibility for the containment of COVID-19 surge in their respective areas. Community members are once again requested to cooperate with the Police in containing the spread of coronavirus by following the SOPs/ guidelines/ protocols for safety of the people. The special drive shall remain continue throughout the districts of Kashmir Valley to strengthen the safety measures.