

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Startups game changer...

and start-ups after the US and China, the Lt Governor observed. The Lt Governor entrusted upon the Industry and academic institutions like IUST, Kashmir University, Jammu University, NIT, IIT to encourage the culture of innovation and provide institutionalized handholding to the budding innovators and researchers.

We have turned the red tape into red carpet. Under the guidance of Prime Minister, UT is witnessing unprecedented industrial investment. The impact of industrial growth will soon reflect in other sectors too. Academic-Industry collaboration and initiatives like CIED will provide an opportunity to promote innovation and ensure market linkage, said the Lt Governor.

"I assure the young innovators that if your idea has potential, the government will extend every possible support to transform your ideas into entrepreneurship ventures", added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also congratulated the IUST for the new Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) which aims to accelerate innovation, incubation, entrepreneurship among youth with prime focus on Women Entrepreneurs.

The Lt Governor further urged the representatives of the Industry and Academia to launch an annual Vice Chancellor's Innovation Challenge to encourage and reward new ideas.

Speaking on the recent decision of age relaxation in the upper age limit for the ensuing Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCEE), the Lt Governor said that the government is sensitive towards the needs and aspirations of the people, especially the youth of J&K.

As many as 16 startups were provided seed capital funding of Rs 5 Lakh each for a period of two years, besides Training and Development programmes were initiated for local food manufacturing, service and agro-industrial units. More than 125 industrial units of the UT are participating in Food Technology training, Digital marketing, leadership development for budding entrepreneurs, it was informed.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also interacted with the Innovators who briefed him about their startups developed under the aegis of CIED, IUST. He also handed over sanction letters to Startups and released IUST's Newsletter.

A documentary on CIED start-up innovations was also showcased at the event. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor, while speaking on the occasion congratulated the students, faculty and management of IUST for its endeavours for building an ecosystem of innovations. He stressed on feedback mechanism, result oriented and outcome based approach while applying course connection mechanism for obtaining the best results.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary while addressing the students said that innovations should be aimed at meeting the needs of the society in the new and easy ways. He highlighted the major inventions done in the human history and said that once India was the melting pot of the world in terms of innovation. He stressed on the students and innovators for exploring the scope and scale of inventions that could benefit the people.

Padma Shri Prof Anil Gupta, Founder GIAN, while speaking on the occasion complimented IUST for holding the two day National level Academia-Industry Conclave. He laid thrust on identifying the underutilized resources and explained the significance and need of developing open innovations that are accessible to all.

Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir also spoke on the occasion and extended his congratulations for the Conclave. He said that the technical and training sessions would be highly useful for students in learning new skills and developing their knowledge.

Professor Shakil Ahmad Ramshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST while presenting the welcome address spoke on the aim of the two day long National level conclave. He also highlighted the achievements of the University.

Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Higher Education; Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Former Vice Chancellors; Parvez Ahmed Mir, Director, Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development (CIED); members of IUST-Industry Council, Start-up Entrepreneurs, Innovators, besides senior officers, distinguished participants from the Industry, Principals, Deans, HODs, Researchers, Scholars, Students and faculty members of IUST attended the Conclave.

Pankaj Sharma new...

and Monitoring Department; Pankaj Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Special Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat has been transferred and posted as Exeise Commissioner; J&K; and Mohammad Alyas Khan, JKAS, Deputy Director, Estates, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

Terrorist killed in...

Later, in a tweet, the Kashmir Zone police said, "One terrorist killed, one AK rifle and three magazines recovered. The killed terrorist was a part of a newly infiltrated terror group. Search for other two terrorists in progress."

The spokesperson said the operation was going on till the last reports arrived.

Another encounter was underway at Marhama in the Bijbehara area of the Anantnag district. There was no report of any casualty in this operation in the south Kashmir district so far.

SC puts on...

IPC is not in tune with the current social milieu and permitted reconsideration of the provision.

We expect that, till the re-examination of the provision is complete, it will be appropriate not to continue the usage of the aforesaid provision of law by the Governments."

Any affected party is at liberty to approach concerned courts, which are requested to examine the reliefs sought taking into the consideration the present order, the apex court said.

CJI Ramana, writing the order, referred to the attorney general(K K Venugopal) earlier giving instances of glaring misuse of this provision, like in the case of recital of the Hanuman Chalisa .

The Editors Guild of India welcomed the court order. The Guild welcomes this interim order as sedition law has been used far too often by central and state governments against journalists in an effort to curb independent reporting, it said in a statement.

The Guild was one of the petitioners who had challenged the sedition law. The other petitioners included Major General(Retd) SG Vombatkere, former union minister Arun Shourie and People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL). The petitions contended that the law causes a 'chilling effect' on free speech and is an unreasonable restriction on free expression, a fundamental right.

"We are looking for the entire (sedition) law to be struck down," Vombatkere told NDTV.

Senior advocate and former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi told the channel that the sedition law has outlived its life and that the apex court order was a "very bold step".

The court listed the pleas for further hearing in the third week of July, and said its directions shall continue till further orders.

While the Opposition hailed the decision, saying the voice of truth can no longer be suppressed, the Centre invoked the "Lakshman Rekha" to assert that none of the institutions should not cross the "boundary".

The ruling BJP on its part said the order must be viewed in the context of the overall positive suggestion of the government that it wishes to examine the matter which has been "duly accepted" by the court.

The offence of sedition provides for life term as maximum penalty for creating "disaffection towards the government".

Over the years, the number of sedition cases has been on the rise, with Maharashtra politician couple Navneet and Ravi Rana, author Arundhati Roy, student activist Umar Khalid and journalist Siddique Kappan among those charged under the provision.

The British brought sedition laws to target freedom fighters. A sedition charge was imposed on us just for reciting Hanuman Chalisa. We got justice from the Supreme Court today. I thank the court, the law minister, and the prime minister for this, said Navneet Rana, a Lok Sabha MP from Amravati.

The court order referred to the Centre's affidavit, which accepted there were divergent views on the law and had also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was strongly in favour of protection of civil liberties and respect for human rights.

In view of the above, it is clear that the Union of India agrees with the prima facie opinion expressed by this Court in light of the same, the Union of India may reconsider the aforesaid provision of law."

The order said the interim stay granted to some petitioners by the apex court would continue to operate till further orders.

All pending trials, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under Section 124 A of IPC be kept in abeyance. Adjudication with respect to other Sections, if any, could proceed if the Courts are of the opinion that no prejudice would be caused to the accused, it added.

If any fresh case is registered, the affected parties are at liberty to approach the courts for appropriate relief and the courts are requested to examine the reliefs sought, taking into account the present order passed as well as the clear stand taken

by the Centre, it said.

The court did not agree with the Centre's suggestion that a superintendent of police ranked officer be made responsible for monitoring the registration of FIRs for the offence of sedition.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, had also said the registration of FIRs on the matter cannot be prevented as the provision dealt with a cognisable offence and was upheld by a Constitution bench in 1962.

With regard to pending sedition cases, the Centre suggested that hearing on bail pleas in such matters may be expedited as the government did not know the gravity of the offence in all the cases and they may have terror or money laundering angles.

"Ultimately, pending cases are before the judicial forum and we need to trust courts," the law officer submitted.

The bench, which rose for a few minutes to discuss the orders after taking note of the Centre's response, came back to pronounce the directions and said it has considered the issues elaborately.

Between 2015 and 2020, 356 cases of sedition – as defined under Section 124 A of the IPC–were registered and 548 persons arrested, according to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). However, just 12 persons arrested in seven sedition cases were convicted in this six-year period.

ADG BSF visits...

the operational preparedness of field formations, Sandhu said. He visited sensitive Forward Defended Localities (FDL) and took stock of the security situation and applauded officers and troops for their professional acumen in safeguarding the LoC, the DIG SBF said.

"The relentless efforts of the BSF has foiled evil designs of anti-national elements," Sastry said.

On Tuesday, Sastry reviewed the security situation along the International Border (IB) in Jammu frontier. He visited Samba and Kathua sectors where he took stock of the security situation and operational preparedness of field formations. He also visited the recently detected tunnel site in the Samba area, officials said.

16 Tourism Deptt...

in Gulmarg TDA; Suhail Gulzar, JE (Civil) in M&W Wing, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir; Mohammad Abass Shah, JE (Civil) in Pahalgam TDA; Tawqeer Ahmad Khan, JE (Civil) in JKTDC; Shabir Ahmad Malik, JE (Civil) in Pahalgam TDA; Nissar Ul Islam, JE (Civil) in Lolab-Bangus TDA; Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, JE (Civil) in Gulmarg TDA; Farooq Ahmad Lone, JE (Civil) in Wullar-Manasbal TDA; Haseeb Masood Beigh, JE (Civil) in M&W Wing, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir; Viman Pandit, JE (Civil) in SKICC; Sheikh Manzoor Ahmad, JE (Civil) in Sonamarg TDA; Saurav Sangral, JE (Civil) in Surinsar-Mansar TDA. He shall also look after the charge of JE (Civil) in Billawar-Duggan Tourism Development Authority, in addition to his own duties.

Radhay Sham, Junior Engineer (Civil) awaiting orders of adjustment has been posted in M&W Wing, Directorate of Tourism, Jammu.

DB directs CBI...

to mention here that apart from many irregularities pointed out therein, the Court noticed that 37 hotels were constructed unauthorisedly without permission of Patnitop Development Authority in violation of master plan; out of 58 hotels registered with J&K Tourism Department under provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978, 21 hotels either have not been registered or their registration expired; and, in certain cases, the Special Tribunal appears to have compounded major violations which were impermissible but even then Patnitop Development Authority had chosen not to file appeal against the same. It has also been stated that FIR dated 01.08.2020 has been registered against wrongfull gainers/ owners/ proprietors of hoteliers and the officers of Patnitop Development Authority and directed CBI to apprise the court regarding status of investigation in pursuance of aforesaid FIR.

Massive search ops...

BSF and CRPF is underway at village Glad and adjoining areas near the border fence, the officials said.

"The primary focus of the operation is on village Glad due to its close proximity to the border as well as (Jammu-Pathankot) National highway, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Operations, Samba G R Bhardwaj told reporters.

Bhardwaj, who was leading the search operation, said the coordinated effort of the forces is to sanitize the border villages ahead of the upcoming events like Amarnath Yatra which is scheduled to commence on June 30.

Referring to the detection of a tunnel beneath the IB by BSF in Chak Faqaira area of the district on May 4, he said the Amarnath pilgrims use the highways and it is imperative to step up the vigil for their safety as we are all focused to ensure peaceful conclusion of the yatra .

The operation was planned to reach out to the border villagers and ask them to immediately report any suspicious movement to the forces. We are also undertaking the anti-tunneling drive, he said.

He said the areas with ravines, rivelets and wild grass are being thoroughly searched as anti-national elements usually use these to hide weapons smuggled from across the border or dropped by drones.

Meanwhile, a joint search operation by the police and Army is also going on in the general area of village Kasbalari in Mankote sector in Poonch district.

The operation started around 8.30 am in the forest area close to Line of Control (LoC) following reports of suspicious movement, the officials said.

30 injured as...

of Rehyan; Sobia Kouser, wife of Nayeem Shah, resident of Sayma; Akhter Begum, wife of Mohd Rayaz, resident of Rehyan; Talib Hussain, son of Alam Din, resident of Rehyan; Sufia Begum, wife of Mohd Shahid, resident of Chakjaralan Nowshera; Misbah Naaz, daughter of Mohd Shahid, resident of Chakjaralan Nowshera; Refit Afsana, wife of Mohd Khaliq, resident of Sankari; Kaneeza Bi, wife of Mohd Yousaf, resident of Baji Morah Kalakote; Amrit Begum, wife of Mohd Sabra, resident of Kotedhara; Shazia Akhter; wife of Mohd Akram, resident of Kotedhara; Shahnaz Akhter; wife of Sikander Hussain, resident of Kotedhara; Perveen Akhter; wife of Ab Ghafoor; resident of Kotedhara; Motia Begum, wife of Mohd Aslam, resident of Kotedhara; Maryam Begum, wife of Mohd Razaq, resident of Peeri; Shamsheer Ahmed, son of Mohd Mastan, resident of Khapakha; Shazia Kouser, wife of Shamsheer Ahmed, resident of Khapakha; Mohd Razaq, son of Makhhan Din, resident of Padharya; Nazir Begum, wife of Wazir Ahmed, resident of Sankari; Alfaz Hussain, son of Mohd Altaf, resident of Sankari; Rubia Kouser, wife of Mohd Bashir; resident of Dhagri and Nasreen Akhter, wife of Mohd Safer, resident of Dhangri.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal also met with road accident victims in Government Medical College & Associated Hospital.

Interacting with the accident victims, the DC inquired about their well being and directed the medical staff to provide best possible treatment to the injured so that they don't face any inconveniences.

He also assured of all possible support to the injured and their families by the District Administration in these tough hours.

ACR, Inran Rashid Kataria; MS GMC&AH, Dr Anees Altaf Nabi and staff members of the GMC &AH accompanied the DC.

Three Chief Administrative...

Officers and the Accounts Officers are made," reads an order issued by Rajeev Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Chaman Lal Sharma, Section Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur upon his promotion as Chief Administrative Officer has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kathua; Ajaz Ahmad, PA-cum-Senior Scale Stenographer in the Court of 2nd Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Jammu upon his promotion as Chief Administrative Officer has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam; Rubiya Rashid Naqash, Executive Assistant/Senior Scale Stenographer in the Court of Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar upon her promotion as Chief Administrative Officer has been transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal; Mukhtiar Hussain, Section Officer in the Court of Additional District Judge (Bank Cases), Jammu upon his promotion as Accounts Officer has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kathua; Sham Lal-I, Section Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Reasi upon his promotion as Accounts Officer has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur; Sudershana Devi, Section Officer in the Court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur upon her promotion as Accounts Officer has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu; Mohd Yousuf Waza, Section Officer in the Court of 2nd Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar upon his promotion as Accounts Officer has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Rouf-ul Mushtaq Rouf, Section Officer, PDJ Court, Bandipora under transfer to the Court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal upon his promotion as Accounts Officer has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam; Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Accounts Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar has been transferred and posted in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Anantnag.

'Rapid growth in...

May 8. Officials also said districts in south Kashmir continue to be the "hotbed" of terrorism as most local recruits are from this region.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has deployed as many as 60 battalions in J&K for undertaking counter-terrorist operations and rendering law and order duties. It is part of the security grid that comprises the CRPF, Army, J&K Police and central intelligence agencies.

As per official data, security forces likes the CRPF, Army and J&K Police killed a total of 71 terrorists this year out of which 19 were foreign terrorists.

Seven DySPs placed...

Police (Steno) [Pay Level 10-A (56600-179800)- of the Pay Matrix]," reads an order issued by R.K Goyal, Financial Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary Home Department.

As per order, Deputy Superintendents of Police (Steno) who have been placed in the Selection Grade include Younis Ahmad (Retd), Bawani Singh (Retd), Mohammad Syed, Farooq Ahmad Lone, Ajiaz Ali, Mohammad Iqbal and Bhagwan Dass.

Jawans being sensitised...

Himalayan shrine is scheduled to start on June 30 from the twin routes - the traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- after a hiatus of two years owing to the Covid pandemic.

The alertness of security forces foiled several other attempts by terrorists to carry out attacks using "sticky bombs" in the past over one year with the latest being timely detection of one such IED on the Sidhra bypass in the outskirts of Jammu on April 28.

Earlier, four IEDs fitted with sticky bombs were seized each from Poonch district in August and September last year.

The CRPF officer said security arrangements related to the Amarnath Yatra are underway and all the agencies are playing their role. Like yesteryears, we will ensure successful culmination of the Yatra, Yadav said.

Six Pvt Secys...

Secretary (HoD Cadre) presently posted in the office of Commissioner, Food Safety, J&K in the Agriculture Production Department; Naresh Sharma, I/c Private Secretary, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted in the Personal Section of Advisor (B) to the Lieutenant Governor.

Rakesh Kumar Sharma, I/c Private Secretary, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted in the Tribal Affairs Department; Ramesh Kumar, I/c Private Secretary, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted in the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Mohd Arshid Wani, Senior Stenographer, Jal Shakti Department, has been transferred and posted in the Cooperative Department; and Isha Sharma, Senior Stenographer, Mining Department, has been transferred and posted in the Social Welfare Department.

Relax uniform norms...

van should not be over-crowded and should be parked in shaded area.

"It should not carry students more than the seating capacity. Drinking water and first aid kit should be available in the bus. Students coming to school on foot or bicycle should be advised to keep their head covered. Parents should be sensitised to pick-up the students themselves, to the extent possible, to avoid public transport and minimise their time out in the sun. School bus or van may be parked in a shaded area," it said.

The guidelines stated that schools should ensure that all fans are functional and that all classrooms are properly ventilated.

"Availability of power back-up may be arranged, if possible. Curtains, blinds, newspaper, etc. may be used to stop the sunlight entering directly into the classroom. If any local traditional practices are being followed by the school to keep the surroundings cool such as khuss' curtains, bamboo/jute chiks, they may be continued.

"Heat can spoil food therefore hot-cooked meals under PM POSHAN must be served hot and fresh. In-charge teacher may check the food before serving. Children carrying lunch box may be advised not to carry food that can turn stale quickly.

Canteens in schools should ensure that fresh and healthy food is served. Children may be advised to have light food during lunch time," the guidelines said.

The ministry also said that schools may relax norms about uniforms and canvas shoes may be allowed instead of leather ones.

"Students may be allowed to wear loose and light coloured cotton material dress. Schools may relax norms regarding uniform such as neck ties. Canvas shoes may be allowed instead of leather ones. Students may be advised to preferably wear full-sleeve shirt," it said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had last week said a fresh spell of heatwave is likely to begin over northwest India from May 7 and over central India from May 8.

However, closing schools due to heatwave is not an option as suggested by experts as offline classes have started from the new session after nearly two years due to the Covid pandemic.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on May 5 chaired a meeting to review preparations for heatwave management and monsoon preparedness in which he stressed the need to take all measures to avoid deaths due to heatwave or fire incidents.

Vishal posted as..

Administration Department (GAD), Vishal Sharma, JKAS, Additional Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, General Administration Department, with immediate effect.

"He shall continue to hold the charge of Additional Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," it added.

J&K logs 7 new COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported seven new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, raising the tally in the union territory to 4,54,125, officials said.

Six cases were reported from Jammu district while one case was reported Kupwara district, they said.

There are 57 active cases of the disease in the union territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,317, the officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the union territory stood at 4,751 as no fresh fatality was reported in the last 24 hours.

JKPCC aspirants seek further relaxation in upper age-limit from 35-yr to 37-yr in open merit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: A day after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha approved relaxation in upper age limit from 32 years to 35 years in open merit category for Combined Competitive Examination, the aspirants urged authorities to further relax the same as was in vogue earlier: i.e., 37 years. "By relaxing upper age limit, the Lieutenant Governor has shown that Government is alive to difficulties faced by us. But relaxation upto 35 years is neither here or there," a group of aspirants said, adding, "Government should keep it to 37 years as far as open merit candidates are concerned as was the case before SRO-103." They hoped that the administration led by Lieutenant Governor will not run 'roughshod over our genuine demand.' "While the decision to relax age bar is welcome, we request the Government to provide us one last opportunity. Most of us have already surpassed age bar of 35 years and given the situation of past we could not give our best shot," they said, urging authorities, in particular LG to intervene into the matter and fulfill the demand in the larger interest of the aspiring candidates.

While speaking during meeting, President KPC Kundan Kashmiri said that BJP leadership and its Government should not succumb to any pressure and should not send victim community back to valley at mercy of those, who destructed it and forced KPs to leave their homes under threat of life.

"It is unfortunate that BJP and its dispensation at the centre has not been able to demonstrate a strong resolve for pushing forward the return agenda for Kashmiri Pandits and their rehabilitation as per their choice. Kashmiri Pandits in general and KPC in particular are dismayed for delaying rehabilitation process," said Kundan, adding that the only parameter of normalcy in Kashmir valley is one place rehabilitation of KPs with writ of Indian constitution.

BJP, Govt should clear stand over re-settlement of migrant KPs: KPC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), in a meeting held at Delhi on Wednesday, urged BJP leadership and Union Government to clear its stand about re-settlement of displaced Kashmiri Pandits at one place in the land of Kashyap.'

While speaking during meeting, President KPC Kundan Kashmiri said that BJP leadership and its Government should not succumb to any pressure and should not send victim community back to valley at mercy of those, who destructed it and forced KPs to leave their homes under threat of life.

"It is unfortunate that BJP and its dispensation at the centre has not been able to demonstrate a strong resolve for pushing forward the return agenda for Kashmiri Pandits and their rehabilitation as per their choice. Kashmiri Pandits in general and KPC in particular are dismayed for delaying rehabilitation process," said Kundan, adding that the only parameter of normalcy in Kashmir valley is one place rehabilitation of KPs with writ of Indian constitution.

KPC leaders pledged that they would continue to struggle for KP community's settlement at one place in valley and are ready to give any sacrifice to achieve the goal.