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LG constitutes special...

the BJP leaders that Jammu Kashmir Police has been directed to ensure foolproof security for the PM package employees. "The SIT has been formed to probe into all aspects of Rahul Bhat's killing and it will also look into the tear gas shelling incident. Strict action will be taken against those found guilty", the Lt Governor said.

Former Legislators, Surinder Ambardar and Sofi Yousuf, besides BJP Spokesperson, Altaf Thakur and BJP District President Srinagar, Ashok Bhat were also part of the delegation.

According to an official spokesperson, the delegation expressed concerns over the innocent's killing, handed over a memorandum to the Lt Governor, and appealed for the action on the set of demands related to PM package employees.

BJP leaders also requested the Lt Governor to look into the promotion grievances of PM package employees, on which the Lt Governor assured the delegation that he will immediately instruct the administrative secretaries to examine and address the issue on priority.

The Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha assured the delegation that the administration has taken necessary steps to ensure welfare and security of PM package employees and all concerns will be addressed in a time-bound manner.

The BJP memorandum stated that a sense of "insecurity among Kashmiri Pandit employees is increasing due to the recent spurt in killings of Hindus by terrorists, asserting that an exodus of members of the community from the valley will be a black spot on the initiatives of the government. The party also said that it will be a disastrous step if the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) employees leave the valley.

The BJP's memorandum to LG comes in the aftermath of the killing of Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit government employee, which has sparked protests by community members.

The memorandum added that repeated assurances were given to them at each time the killing of any Hindu took place that it won't be repeated. And Rahul Bhat's killing in a busy government office in broad daylight by terrorists has shattered them, it read.

The BJP said the KP employees, who protested the Bhat's killing, faced batons and teargas shelling instead of getting a sense of security by the administration of the Union Territory.

Some of them were injured and a video of which went viral resulting in anti-BJP and anti-Modi ji sloganeering by them, which was seen for the first time in the past three decades in Jammu and Kashmir; the party said.

The BJP said that on Friday, the administration locked gates of the transit complexes housing KP employees and their families denying the movement to markets to get food, vegetables and milk and, as per their grievances, they could not send their children to school.

They are not bonded labourers brought here. What happened in the day was a protest and (they) clashed with police to open gates. It was heating touch instead of confidence building measure, they alleged. The alienation drew them (to) raise anti-Modi ji and anti-BJP slogans during protests in Jammu, Srinagar, Baranulla-Kupwara, Vessu, Mattan and outside the UT, it said.

Despite sitting on dharna, neither the administration officials nor head of UT, the KPs say, has reached to them to give them a sense of confidence and assurance. They (KP employees) are hell bent (on) mass resignation, the party said.

The BJP said the minority Kashmiri Hindus and Sikhs are losing confidence as they say the lower and middle section bureaucracy and officialdom has the same eco-system as that of the previous period.

During the Congress rule, the party said, when the special employment policy was framed, a 'bond to serve in Kashmir til retirement' was made the main condition to getting employment.

This clause is in violation of the Constitution of India and a grave human rights violation meant to give them bad sense of being 'bonded labourer' (and) not an employee, the memorandum said.

Saying there was an urgent need for reaching out to the protesting employees by the LG in order to provide them a sense of security, confidence and belongingness, the party suggested that the clause of bond' of the previous employment policy needs to be done away with to address this demand of employees.

As the employees in J-K are central government employees, policy should also include providing them jobs in Central services too, the party said.

The party also suggested the employees be posted in various secured institutions like police, secretariat, Raj Bhavan, city and town-based government departments -- where there is a security set-up available.

The party said there is a need to move the employees to some newly constructed government buildings in various districts from unsecured rented accommodation.

These government accommodations should have security and facilities for housing them. Moreover, there is demand of permanent allotment in the names of employees in Kashmir as part of their rehabilitation, it said.

The party expressed hope that the issues raised by it would be addressed as soon as possible.

Sinha orders inquiry...

made to create an atmosphere of fear and terror. He was a very good employee. We have constituted a SIT over the issue. The SHO has been attached. The SIT will investigate all the angles,' Sinha said here.

He said the SIT will also inquire into the use of force on the protestors.

The force which was used will also be investigated. In one week's time, their posting will be done in safe and secure places. They have some other grievances and those will also be looked into. We understand their pain and difficulties, the LG said, adding, the administration will make arrangements for full security wherever they live.

The LG also said he has directed the administration that there is no need to use force.

Bhat, who had got the job of a clerk under the special employment package for Kashmiri Pandits in 2010-11, was gunned down by terrorists inside the tehsil office in Chadoora town on Thursday.

He appealed to the Kashmiri Pandit employees to keep patience for some time, assuring them that all their issues will be resolved.

Sinha said some people were trying to disturbing peace in Kashmir; but the adminis-

tration is taking the issue very seriously .

I appeal the politicians and political parties as well as common people that this is the time to stay together so that the peaceful atmosphere remains. Some people are trying to disturb the atmosphere, but I want to tell them that their attempts will not succeed. Two foreign terrorists involved in the incident have been killed and the police is after the others, he said. He said the administration is sensitive to the issue and will make every attempt to resolve their issues. I appeal all the political parties that to issue an appeal for social boycott of such elements involved in these (killings) incidents , Sinha said.

LG greets people...

my greetings and good wishes to the people. Let us follow Lord Buddha's message of right action, welfare of the downtrodden and underprivileged, which are of profound significance to mankind. May the festival usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all," the Lt Governor said.

Civilian killed in...

civilian, identified as Shoiib Ah Ganie of Turkwangam, was injured.

The police said the civilian was referred to the District Hospital in Pulwama where he succumbed to his injuries.

The terrorists, "after a brief chance encounter", managed to slip into nearby orchards, the police said. A case has been registered and a search was underway for the ultras, the police said. Meanwhile, the District Magistrate (DM) Shopian has ordered a magisterial enquiry in today's firing incident at Turkawangam in district Shopian.

As per an official handout issued here the magisterial enquiry shall be conducted by Additional District Magistrate, Shopian.

It was given out that the enquiry shall be completed in a given time frame and suitable action under law shall be taken, according to an official spokesperson.

Premature release of...

including remission or pre mature release, as the case may be, in terms of the policy which is applicable in Gujarat where the crime was committed and not the State where the trial stands transferred and concluded for exceptional reasons under the orders of this Court.

"The respondents are directed to consider the application of the petitioner for pre mature release in terms of its policy dated 9th July, 1992 which is applicable on the date of conviction and may be decided within a period of two months. If any adverse order is passed, the petitioner is at liberty to seek remedy available to him under the law," the bench said.

Heat wave grips...

officials said. The weather office has predicted relief from the heatwave from Monday evening owing to inclement weather.

"There is a possibility of continuation of a dry and clear weather till May 16. Widespread moderate rain or thunderstorm with hailstorm at some places and snow over higher reaches is most likely during May 16 (evening) till May 18," an official said.

PAGD delegation meets...

then what about the families of slain Kashmiri Muslims.

"If Rahul was killed, Riyaz (a policeman) was also killed. Where will Riyaz's family and relatives go? You (Kashmiri Pandits) do not have to leave your home. This is your home, this is my home. We will bear this tragedy together and try to safeguard each other; he said.

The CPI(M) leader said the alliance raised the issue of the transfer of the employees to safer places. However; there is no possibility of their transfer outside Kashmir; he said.

We told them (a delegation of KP employees which the PAGD leaders met on Saturday) that we cannot afford to let them leave. The LG also agreed to that today; he said.

He said while the protection of the minority communities in every society was the responsibility of the governments, the people cannot afford to oblige those who want to disturb our unity . The delegation told Sinha that sufficient protection must be provided to the employees at their workplaces as well as wherever they live and all possible assistance be provided to them so that they live here with a sense of security; he said.

We told the LG that it was not possible for them to work in remote areas, so relocate them to the areas where there is full security, so that they feel confident about their well being. We also told the LG to provide safer accommodation to them. The LG has agreed to it, Tarigami said.

He said the meeting with Sinha was useful and productive .

Apart from Abdullah, who is also the president of the National Conference, the delegation comprised PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, Tarigami, NC MP Hasnain Masoodi and Awami National Conference senior vice president Muzaffar Shah.

BJP using diversionary...

hardships. As the central government was taking time, my government recommended four per cent reservation for Paharis and one per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes for the time being but unfortunately we lost the (2014) elections and BJP came to power (in coalition with PDP) in 2015; he said.

He said had they been sincere towards the Paharis, they should be pressed for the implementation of the recommendation of the previous government to provide some sort of relief to them. "They are only deceiving the community on the false promise because they know when you all (Gujjars, Bakerwals and Paharis) will come together; their boat will not move forward; he said.

Abdullah said over the past two-and-a-half years since the abrogation of Article 370, nothing has changed as the youth are still jobless, the poor are becoming poorer and government schemes failed to benefit the public.

"They talked about industrialisation but not a single new industry was set up. They are cutting ribbons of tunnels, the work of which started during former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure; he said.

The delimitation report joining Rajouri and Poonch districts with the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency is beyond one's understanding, he said, adding, "We are forced to think that they are planning something fishy because of their track record.

He said the National Conference was criticised when it talked about internal autonomy, having two components -- one between the Centre and J&K and the second within

J&K with Pir Panchal being given a separate status within the state for its overall development.

"They became perturbed on our internal autonomy documents and accused us of drawing lines on the basis of religion; he said, raising a question mark on linking Poonch and Rajouri with the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat. "If they had laid the foundation of the tunnel (along the Mughal road), there was no need to create differences among the people and make them fight; he said.

J&K reports 7...

positive cases during the past 24 hours, the Bulletin stated that tJammu reported four fresh cases; Srinagar; Kupwara and Bandipora one case each while as no other district across the Union Territory recorded any fresh case.

IAS officer given...

order; Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, JKAS, Director General Horticulture, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Secretary in the Labour and Employment Department; Ghulam Rasool Mir, JKAS, Special Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department as Director Horticulture Kashmir; Arun Kishore Kotwal, JKAS, Additional Secretary, Jal Shakti Department as Additional Secretary, Mining Department; and Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, JKAS, Deputy Director, Employment (Central), J&K has been transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Wullar-Manasbal.

Focus on time...

springs for centuries. But, unfortunately; these important sources of freshwater had become non-living. In the last one year; the Panchayati Raj Institutions together with local administration have revived 12 freshwater springs.

In Ramban district, 70 water bodies have been revived within a year. Panchayats of Doda district have revived 71 water bodies. The work of reviving 316 ponds and wells of different panchayats of Jammu district has also been done.

In Sanba district, with the combined efforts of the Rural Development Department and the Panchayats, 148 water bodies have been revived, including some very old ponds which had become lifeless due to encroachment. 12 Panchayats of Bandipora have formed committees and done important work to revive the dying water springs there. Bandipora District Administration has also removed 114 encroachments from Jhelum River.

A total of 186 water springs and other water bodies have been revived in Budgam with the help of citizens and public representatives of the Panchayat, the Lt Governor added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor appreciated the citizens namely- Mohammad Ashraf of Chandrakot Panchayat, Charan Singh of Dandraith village, Suraj Singh of Gam Panchayat, Manira Begum of Dharam Panchayat, Mohammad Iqbal Hajam of Shrachi Panchayat, for their contribution in reviving the water bodies that have been neglected for a long time.

He also congratulated Javed Ahmed Shah of Kultreh Panchayat of Budgam district, for making tireless efforts for the revival of Astan Springs.

Referring to a suggestion received from Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh from Anantnag regarding the cooperation of the local population for the revival and preservation of the water bodies present in residential areas, the Lt Governor said that the J&K administration had constituted water committees in all the Panchayats last year for the revival of water bodies, besides checking illegal construction and encroachment.

Responding to the suggestion of Ashish Kumar of Kathua and Rohit Sangra of Jammu for the compulsory online registration of all the consumers with the Jal Shakti department, the Lt Governor said that this insight will help in preparing a database of the consumers and streamline the processes associated with the digitization of citizen-oriented services. The Lt Governor shared a letter received from Iaht Sham-ul-Haq from Rajouri highlighting the need to rekindle the interest of the young generation and spread awareness about the rich history and culture of J&K.

The Lt Governor also mentioned about the suggestion of Pooja Sharma Raina from Jammu calling for making regular field trips part and parcel of the school curriculum, with an aim to boost interactions and learning from the experience on the ground.

While responding to the suggestion received from Pulwama's Naveed Hamid on creating a vibrant ecosystem of Start-Ups in J&K in line with the vision of the administration to strengthen entrepreneurship by means of promoting Innovation, Invention and Incubation, the Lt Governor said that the UT administration is building an enabling environment for start-ups to flourish in J&K.

The Lt Governor urged youth to reach out to the youth clubs or nodal officers of the district with their innovative ideas. If your Start-Up idea has potential, if your innovation has the potential to create disruption in the market, then all possible assistance will be provided by the administration, the Lt Governor asked the youth.

In view of the suggestion of Shabir Malik from Baramulla to deal with the plastic menace, the Lt Governor requested all the citizens and the business community to adopt a better alternative to plastic bags and complement government efforts to make J&K - 'Polythene Free'. Referring to a suggestion of Suhaib Afzal from Anantnag on raising the awareness regarding self-medication and the need to regulate the sale of the over-the-counter drugs, the Lt Governor said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first such policy has been formulated in the country which will regulate the sale of over-the-counter drugs. This policy will curb the sale of medicines with serious side effects. As soon as this policy is notified, it will be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir as well, the Lt Governor added. "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" provides us with an opportunity to rededicate ourselves for nation-building. Together; all of us need to act as a collective force and build the paths that will shape India's future, the Lt Governor concluded.

Missing worker found ...

but returned home after police and civil officers assured them all possible help to find the whereabouts of the missing man. Intensifying the search for Wani, the police recovered his body from a stream in a forest area near Dugga, some 500 metres from the railway construction site on Sunday morning, the officials said. They said three persons including a sister-brother duo were detained for questioning as call details of the deceased revealed that the woman had made repeated calls to him on the day he went missing. The body of the deceased was handed over to his relatives for last rites after completion of legal formalities, the officials said, adding further details are awaited.

scene, they said, adding the shell was later taken away by bomb disposal squad after inspection. The shell was not carrying any explosive and was completely rusted, the officials said.

Man attacked over dispute

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was attacked over a dispute in Kanachak area on Sunday.

As per details, one Subash Chander, resident of Gajansoo lodged a complaint with Kanachak Police that when he was on way to his brother's house, a local resident namely Sunny Kumar attacked him over a dispute and fled from the spot. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

Case under POCSO Act registered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Janipur police on Sunday registered a case under POCSO Act and started investigation. As per details, a family lodged a complaint with Janipur police that one Faqir Chand, resident of Shivalikpuram, Janipur, on finding their 13 years old daughter alone at home, had raped her. Acting on complaint, police conducted medical examination of victim and has registered a case for investigation.

Man crushed under train

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was crushed under train in Jhallo Chak area on Sunday.

As per details, a man suddenly came in front of a moving train in Jhallo Chak area and died on the spot. Soon after getting information, GRP men rushed to the spot and shifted body to morgue for autopsy. His identity is yet to be ascertained.

Man attempts suicide by jumping from Tawi Bridge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man attempted suicide by jumping from Tawi Bridge on Sunday.

As per details, Ankush, son of Patu Ram, resident of Ramnagar; presently staying at Rehari came to Tawi bridge and jumped. Soon after incident, the onlookers informed police which rushed to the spot and shifted him to hospital for treatment. Further investigation is going on.

Woman lodges complaint against brother-in-law

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: A woman has lodged a complaint against her brother-in-law in Khour area on Sunday. As per details, a woman lodged a complaint with police that her brother-in law did obscene activities with her when she was all alone at home. Police had registered a case and started investigation.

Man held with 3 Kg poppy straw

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Police on Sunday nabbed a man and recovered 3 Kg poppy straw from his possession.

As per details, Nagrota Police acting on a tip-off laid a Naka and intercepted a suspect, from whose possession 3 Kg poppy straw was recovered. The accused was arrested and a case under relevant section of law was registered against him.

CRIME REPORT

Burglary case solved; 2 arrested, stolen property recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Police on Sunday solved a burglary case by arresting two accused involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen property from their possession. As per details, on May 10, 2022, Police Post Putkha received a complaint from one Mehboob Hussain Mir, son of Ghulam Nabi stating therein that some burglars entered his newly constructed school namely 'Heritage School' at Hygam, Sopore and decamped with Generator, Motor and Paint bucket. Accordingly, FIR No. 41/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Tarzoo and investigation started, during which police team arrested two accused persons identified as Aadil Khaliq Ganie and Saqib Akbar Ganie, both residents of Bulgam Sopore, who confessed their involved in crime. On their disclosure, stolen property was also recovered.

Drug peddler arrested with psychotropic substance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from society, Police on Sunday arrested a drug peddler in Sopore and recovered psychotropic substance from his possession.

As per details, a police party during patrolling at Hygam, Sopore intercepted a suspect and on checking recovered 20 bottles of Codeine Phosphate from his possession. Identified as Irshad Ahmad Lone, son of Ghulam Muhammad Lone, resident of Wagub Sopore, the accused was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR No. 45/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Tarzoo and investigation initiated.

11 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which teams from Police Stations Khour, Nagrota, Miran Sahib, Police Posts Sidhra and Chinore acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at different locations in their jurisdictional areas and seized 11 different vehicles involved in illegal mining, which included five tractors without registration numbers seized by Khour police; two tractor-trolleys without registration numbers seized by Nagrota police; a tractor-trolley without registration number seized by Miran Sahib police; two tractor-trolleys (JK02CT 3643 and JK02CU 2562) seized by Sidhra police and a tractor-trolley without Registration number seized by Chinore police. The recoveries were made by SHO Khour Inspr Balwinder Singh, SHO Nagrota Inspr Vishav Pratap Singh, SHO Miran Sahib Inspr Zaheer Mushtaq, Incharge Police Post Sidhra SI Majid Hussain and Incharge Police Post Chinore SI Amit Singh in their respective jurisdictions.

Abducted minor girl rescued from HP, accused held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Sunday rescued a kidnapped minor girl from Himachal Pradesh and arrested accused.

As per details, on May 5, 2022, a complaint was lodged by guardians of a girl against one Kuldeep Singh, son of Vikram Singh, resident of Thakarakote, Reasi stating that he has kidnapped a minor girl. In this regard, a case under relevant sections was registered at Police Station Bahu Fort and investigation started.

On this, a team from Police Station Bahu Fort under supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Bahu Fort Inspr Nayat Ali assisted by PSI Adarsh Thakur; after putting in strenuous efforts, finally got input regarding presence of minor girl in Himachal Pradesh. A special team was sent to Bilaspur Himachal Pradesh and minor girl was finally traced successfully while the accused was also arrested. The overall operation was done under supervision of SP City South Mamta Sharma.

Bootlegger nabbed with 72 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHHTWAR: In continuation to its drive against sale of illicit liquor; Police on Sunday detained a bootlegger at Malipath area of Kishtwar and recovered 72 bottles of illicit liquor from his possession. As per details, a party from Police Station Kishtwar led by Incharge SHO Kishtwar Insp Parvaiz Ahmed along with his team under supervision of DySP Hqrs Ashish Gupta laid a surprise Naka at Malipathand and intercepted a suspect. During search, police party recovered 72 bottles of country-made liquor from his possession. The accused, identified as Piyare Lal, son of Mehat Singh, resident of Shan Mohalla, Kishtwar, was arrested and FIR No 110/2022 under section 48 (A) of Excise Act was registered against him.

12 bovines rescued, two smugglers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Police on Sunday foiled an attempt to smuggle bovines by rescuing 12 bovines with arrest of 2 smugglers.

As per the details, acting on information received through reliable sources regarding illegal transportation of bovines, a party from Police Post Goran while performing patrolling duty intercepted a truck (JK21C-7214) near village Plai, Goran for checking. During checking, 12 bovines were found laden inside vehicle, which were rescued. The driver, namely Jaffer Ali, son of Nazam Din, resident of Sail Kodi Ber; Majalta, Udhampur along with his associate namely Mohd Faiz, son of Mohd Jabbar, resident of Jeed, Samba were arrested and vehicle was also seized. Accordingly, FIR No. 120/2022 under section 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act was registered at Police Station Samba.

Rusted mortar shell found from garbage dump in Kunjwani area

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A rusted mortar shell was recovered from a garbage dump on outskirts of Jammu on Sunday, officials said. The shell was noticed by some passersby on road-side garbage dump adjacent to a scrap shop in Kunjwani area on Jammu-Pathankot highway, the officials said. On getting information, a police party rushed to the

