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Curfew in tense...

in Masjid Mohalla, Sadar Bazar and Pasri Bus Stand are in Bhaderwah town, Singh added.

In Kashmir, security forces have been deployed in strength at sensitive places of Srinagar and elsewhere in the Valley for maintaining law and order.

The old city -- popularly known as Downtown Srinagar -- witnessed a complete shutdown with public transport off the roads. However, traffic was plying in Lal Chowk, Batamaloo and adjoining areas with offices and schools remaining open.

Authorities have shut down the Internet on mobile devices in some areas as a precautionary measure to stop rumour-mongers, officials said, adding there were no report of any untoward incident in the Valley so far.

Protests were held at Lal Chowk, Batamaloo, Tenggpora and other parts of Srinagar. Men and women staged protests by holding placards after the Friday prayers, officials said here.

Officials said the protests were peaceful with no untoward incident reported from anywhere so far. Union minister and Udhampur MP Jitendra Singh appealed for peace and harmony.

"Curfew has been imposed in both Doda and Kishtwar districts as a precautionary measure," Divisional Commissioner, Jammu region, Ramesh Kumar told PTI.

Registering FIRs, the police have warned that anyone found violating law and order will not be spared. "Action has been taken (over inflammatory speeches). A case has been registered under IPC sections 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) at Bhaderwah police station," a police official said.

"Anyone who takes the law into his own hands will not be spared," he said.

The divisional commissioner and the DIG will hold a meeting with religious leaders in the afternoon and they have been asked to persuade members of their communities to maintain peace. Cleric Adil Ganai, who has been booked for making inflammatory and hate speeches in Bhaderwah on Thursday, tendered an apology for hurting the sentiments of a particular community. "It was not against a community but a particular individual. Despite that, I hurt the feelings of a community, I apologise", he told reporters. Ganai said it was the result of an emotional outburst. "I apologize for that."

Taking to Twitter, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said, "I hope cooler heads prevail. Jammu and Kashmir has enough problems without adding to them with communal tension spreading in and around Bhadarwah. I appeal to everyone to maintain calm and ask my party colleagues to help normalise the situation at the earliest."

120 Kg Poppy...

special cabin was detected in a tool box inside the truck in which 5 bags of poppy weighing 120 kg was recovered, they said. However, taking the advantage of heavy traffic on road, the truck driver fled away from the spot, police said. Efforts are on to trace him, they said.

11 new COVID...

reached 4,49,502, the officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the union territory stands at 4,752 as no fresh fatality was reported in the last 24 hours.

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

Army Chief reviews...

scheduled to witness the high altitude operational capabilities of deployed formations, including mountaineering skills and long-range patrolling," the Army said.

It said Gen Pande is also reviewing the ongoing infrastructure and development work and the Army-citizen connect in the forward areas.

"While interacting with the Commanders during his visit, the Army Chief emphasised the need for vigil and alertness along the borders," the Army said in a statement.

It said he appreciated the absorption of modern technology in undertaking persistent surveillance.

"The Chief of Army Staff, during his interaction with the troops deployed on the forward posts, appreciated their high morale and exhorted them to maintain the high standards of professional excellence," the Army said.

He also complimented the excellent synergy between the Army, CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces), civil administration and police towards operational effectiveness and sustainable development in the border areas, the Army said.

The border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

The face-off escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020. Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry. As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area. Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector.

Devise better traffic...

should reflect our civility. He underscored the need of having short, mid and long term solutions for our traffic woes. He asked for strict implementation of using High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) on vehicles only for their effective monitoring. He enjoined upon the enforcement agencies to utilize their men and machinery efficiently to bring about a substantial improvement in coming days.

The Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Home stressed on the fact that the present situation calls for more stringent enforcement at all levels. He favoured for using modern tools and technology for manning the roads and ensuring smooth flow of traffic on them.

He also emphasized on optimum utilization of the available parking spaces for brining in the desired change on ground. He asked them to accelerate the process of affixation of HSRP across the UT so that all the vehicles have these within the given deadline.

The Principal Secretary, PWD also gave his suggestions regarding the better management of traffic in the UT. He asked for creating minimum barriers and simplifying the enforcement tactics. He made out that our efforts should be empowering instead of authoritative in nature. The Commissioner Secretary, Transport informed the meeting that J&K has some 18.5 lakh vehicles out of which around 16.5 lakh have HSRPs affixed on them. He further revealed that all the vendors have the capacity to meet our requirements and the target can be met smoothly after renewed enforcement on ground.

The IG Traffic informed the meeting about various measures being taken in the UT for better management of traffic. He enumerated that e-challaning, installation of automatic traffic signals, use of interceptors coupled with other technical and technological interventions are going to bring in the necessary respite for commuters.

It was said that the procurement of high end traffic management equipment like highway patrolling vehicles, interceptors, motor bikes , body cameras besides other paraphernalia shortly is going to change this aspect of traffic policing to a larger extent in the UT of J&K.

Most historians gave...

the protection of the culture, language and religion for 1,000 years has not gone in vain as "India is again standing with respect before the world now and the country's glory is recognised", he said.

"I want to tell the historians. We have many empires but historians have concentrated only on the Mughals and wrote mostly about them. The Pandya empire ruled for 800 years. The Ahom empire ruled Assam for 650 years. They (Ahoms) had even defeated Bakhtiyar Khalji, Aurangzeb and kept Assam sovereign. The Pallava Empire ruled for 600 years. The Cholas ruled for 600 years. "The Mauryas ruled the whole country -- from Afghanistan to Lanka for 550 years. The Satvahanas ruled for 500 years. The Guptas ruled for 400 years and (Gupta emperor) Samudragupta had for the first time visioned a united India and established an empire with the whole country. But there is no reference book on them," he said. The home minister said reference books should be written on these empires and if they are written,"the history which we believe wrong will gradually fade away and the truth will emerge". For this, he said, there is a need to start work by many people.

"By keeping aside comments, our glorious history should be kept in front of the public. When we make big efforts, then automatically the attempt of falsehood becomes small. So, we should pay more attention to make our efforts bigger because even commenting on a lie also gives traction to it," he said.

Shah said history is not written on the basis of victory or defeat but on the basis of the outcome of any event.

"No one can stop us from writing the truth. We are now independent. We can write our own history," he said. The home minister said it is a fact that some people have written history in such a way that it generates disappointment. "But India is such a country where disappointment can't survive".

"It may be decades, 50 years or a hundred years but in the end, it is the truth which will emerge victorious," he said.

Shah said some historians have written some books on a small scale but no one has done any comprehensive work on the history of the whole country and there are limited reference books. He said he wants to tell those engaged in writing, compiling or doing research in the field of history, that "the task of history is to revive the glory of the past for the present. I have full faith that if you resuscitate the glory of the past for the present, it helps in building a bright future for society. He said the government is also taking initiatives but when the government takes the initiative for writing history, many difficulties come up.

"When independent historians write history, only truth comes up and that is why our people should write books with facts and without making any comments," he said.

Efforts on to...

reporters during a visit to Kathua to review arrangements with regard to the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra. He said curfew has been imposed as a precautionary measure to maintain peace and appealed to people to not get misled by provocation.

People should behave responsibly. If someone does anything wrong, action is taken against that person. It is not wise to come on roads at the instigation of someone and do acts which cause damage to communal harmony," Singh said.

Expression of resentment on being instigated is alright to a level but no such step should be taken wherein police have to use force and take stringent action, the DGP said.

He said some people do not behave responsibly and do acts that disturb law and order.

"They speak very wrong. They should not speak like that. If someone hurts people's feelings, there are aberrations," Singh said.

Curfew has been imposed in Bhaderwah to stop such an activity, he added.

Sporadic incidents of stone-pelting were reported in Bhaderwah town. Some people, violating restrictions, came out on the streets and threw stones at security forces while raising slogans. During his visits, the DGP sought security and traffic arrangements reports from the senior officers of these districts being put in place for the smooth conduct of SANJY. At the transit camp Bhagwati Nagar the DGP took a round of the complex and parking area for yatri vehicles. The DGP directed for completing and finalizing all the necessary arrangements on ground with respect to security of the camp. He stressed for monitoring of security and traffic plan arrangements by the jurisdictional senior officers on regular basis. He directed for area domination surrounding the Base Camp and also day / night patrolling to ensure safe and smooth conduct of the yatra.

SSP Jammu Chandan Kholi gave a detailed briefing to the DGP regarding the measures being taken for the SANJY at Jammu. ASP Jammu City Kulbir Handa and DySP Hqrs Jammu Swati Sharma were also present on the occasion.

During his visit to Samba, SSP Samba Dr Abhishek Mahajan and DySPs Bari Brahamana, Vijaypur accompanied the DGP and briefed about various measures being taken for smooth conduct of the Yatra.

At Kathua, he visited Lakhapur along with Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey and SSP Kathua, R C Kotwal who apprised the DGP about the progress of arrangements at the entry point for the pilgrims.

DGP stressed that security and facilitation of Yatris is top priority of Jammu and Kashmir Police and administration and added that Lakhapur is the gateway to J&K for the pilgrims and every effort should be made to make their journey comfortable for the yatris. He said that security grids need to be strengthened more and coordination among all stakeholders must be ensured for the smooth conduct of the yatra.

The DGP also took note of the boarding and lodging facilities at these places being provided for the forces deployed. The DGP also directed for adequate measures for disaster management at these locations.

Cong MP hits...

government at the Centre has failed to secure the life and property of inno-



Congress MP, Amee Yagnik speaking at Party workers meeting.

cents people who have been victim of targeted killings for quite some time leading to atmosphere of panic among the common people especially minority", Yagnik told reporters here.

The AICC leader said as a result of terror, they are seeking migration and transfer in Jammu for the first time after 1990. "It is unfortunate that this kind of situation has emerged in Kashmir when BJP was claiming near complete normalcy in Kashmir," she said. She demanded an adequate security measures for the safety of innocents especially minorities in Kashmir. Yagnik was responding to media queries here after taking stock of the the party's organizational affairs, especially the ongoing process of organization elections.

Govt issues new...

stakeholders to prevent misleading ads even by mistake and will also empower consumers and consumer organisations to file complaints against misleading ads.

The secretary also mentioned that these guidelines will apply to government advertisements issued by PSUs engaged in providing consumer services, he said. The advertising guidelines for self-regulation issued by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) will also be in place in a parallel manner, he added.

Elaborating on the guidelines, regulator Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Chief Commissioner and Additional Secretary in the Consumer Affairs Ministry Nidhi Khare said: "CCPA has taken action against misleading ads during the pandemic. We felt that there was a need to have guidelines, so that stakeholders are aware of them and do not violate without knowledge."

Misleading advertisement has already been defined under section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The present guidelines define "bait advertisement", "surrogate advertisement" and clearly provides what constitutes as "free claim advertisements". Bait advertisement means an advertisement in which goods, products or service is offered for sale at a low price to attract consumers. Besides, the guidelines lay down conditions to be complied with while issuing bait advertisements and free claims advertisements, enumerating various factors to be considered in publishing ads especially targeting children. The guidelines forbid advertisements from exaggerating the features of product or service in such manner as to lead children to have unrealistic expectations of such product or service and claim any health or nutritional claims or benefits without being adequately and scientifically substantiated by a recognized body.

In a statement issued later, the government said advertisement targeting children should not feature any personalities from the field of sports, music or cinema for products which under any law requires a health warning for such advertisement or cannot be purchased by children.

Since the disclaimers in advertisements play a pivotal role from consumer perspective since, in a way it limits the responsibility of the company, the guidelines stipulates that disclaimer should not attempt to hide material information with respect to any claim made in such advertisement, the omission or absence of which is likely to make the advertisement deceptive or conceal its commercial intent and should not attempt to correct a misleading claim made in an advertisement.

Further, it provides that a disclaimer should be in the same language as the claim made in the advertisement and the font used in a disclaimer shall be the same as that used in the claim.

That apart, clear guidelines are laid for duties of manufacturer, service provider, advertiser and advertising agency, due diligence to be carried out before endorsing and others.

Khare said, "Any endorsement must reflect the genuine, reasonably current opinion of the individual, group or organisations making such representation and must be based on adequate information about, or experience with, the

identified goods, product or service."

Where Indian professionals are barred under any law from making endorsement in any advertisement, foreign professionals of such profession are not permitted to make endorsement in such ads, she said.

The guidelines aim to protect consumers interest through bringing in more transparency and clarity in the way advertisements are being published, so that, consumers are able to make informed decisions based on facts rather than false narratives and exaggerations.

The government said the penalty for violating the guidelines are also clearly outlined. The consumer protection regulator can impose a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers for any misleading advertisements. For subsequent contravention, CCPA may impose a penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh.

The authority can prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from making any endorsement for up to 1 year and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend up to 3 years.

Auto, home & personal...

soaring inflation in the country, mainly triggered by supply side woes due to Russia-Ukraine war.

Private sector lender ICICI Bank raised the repo linked External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) with effect from June 8, 2022 to 8.60 per cent from 8.10 per cent earlier.

Public sector lender Punjab National Bank has raised repo linked lending rate (RLLR) to 7.40 per cent from 6.90 per cent earlier.

Bank of Baroda, the third largest bank in the public sector, raised the RLLR to 7.40 per cent.

HDFC Ltd has raised its Retail Prime Lending Rate (RPLR) for housing loans, on which its Adjustable Rate Home Loans (ARHL) are benchmarked, by 50 basis points, with effect from June 10, 2022. This translates into an increase of Rs 31 per Rs 1 lakh for a 20-year loan.

India's largest lender State Bank of India had revised its EBLR to 7.05 per cent plus Credit Risk Premium (CRP), days before the RBI's monetary policy announcement.

Indian Bank has raised RLLR to 7.70 per cent, and Bank of India to 7.75 per cent.

Chennai-based public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank has raised RLLR to 7.75 per cent with effect from June 10.

Pune-based Bank of Maharashtra in a regulatory filing on Friday said it has raised RLLR to 7.70 per cent per annum from 7.20 per cent with immediate effect.

It also raised marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 30 basis points each for various tenors, with the benchmark one-year rate to 7.70 per cent from 7.40 per cent earlier.

Canara Bank had raised the one-year MCLR to 7.40 per cent from 7.35 per cent with effect from June 7, 2022.

Most of the consumer loans are linked to one-year MCLR rate. The MCLR system came into effect from April 1, 2016.

From October 1, 2019, all banks have to lend only at an interest rate linked to an external benchmark such as RBI's repo rate or Treasury Bill yield. As a result, monetary policy transmission by banks has gained traction.

6 terror suspects...

Budgam district, the spokesperson said.

'Hybrid terrorist' is a term coined by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir to describe those ultras who carry out a subversive task assigned to them by their handlers before they slip back into normal life.

They are activated by the handlers on a need basis -- a tactic that helps them to evade the radar of security forces for little longer than those terrorists who join the ranks full time.

Sitharaman, Surjewala among...

candidate Pramod Tiwari. The BJP promptly suspended her from the party's primary membership.

"When everybody knows that 126 MLAs are with us, why did they (BJP) field an independent candidate? They wanted to attempt horse-trading but that did not happen," a jubilant Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot told reporters at the Assembly complex in Jaipur. The victory of the Congress candidates has sent out a strong message in the country, he said, asserting the party will retain power in the Assembly elections next year. The Congress, with 108 MLAs in the 200-member Assembly, needed 123 votes to win the three seats. The Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) with two MLAs had extended support to it. The ruling party also had the claimed support of 13 Independents and one Rashtriya Lok Dal MLA, who is a state minister.

On the other hand, the BJP had 71 MLAs. After the victory of its party candidate, who secured 43 votes, the BJP had 28 surplus votes to help Chandra's bid. Three MLAs of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) too had extended support to Chandra, but he still couldn't manage the additional votes required for a victory.

However, the counting was held up in Maharashtra after opposition BJP alleged three MLAs of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)--Cabinet ministers Jitendra Ahwad (NCP) and Yashomati Thakur (Congress), besides Shiv Sena legislator Suhas Kande violated the model code for voting.

The Congress retaliated, demanding that the Election Commission invalidate the votes of BJP MLA Sudhir Mungantiwar and Independent MLA Ravi Rana.

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole, in a letter to the CEC claimed Mungantiwar "vitiated the voting procedure" by showing his ballot paper to people other than his own party's election agents. Rana openly displayed the Hanuman Chalisa, a religious book, and sought to influence other voters, he alleged.

The counting was also put on hold in Haryana for identical reasons after

BJP nominee Krishan Lal Panwar and Independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma shot off a missive to the EC, alleging Congress MLAs Kiran Choudhary and B B Batra showed their ballot papers to unauthorised persons after marking them and that the episodes were "duly captured" on cameras.

Prominent among the candidates who are expected to score a facile victory in Maharashtra include Union minister Piyush Goyal and Shiv Sena's ubiquitous face and spokesperson Sanjay Raut. Both are sitting Rajya Sabha members from the state.

Validity of order...

2021 dated June 22, 2021 is hereby further extended for a period of one year i.e till May 15, 2023.

President pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi shrine



President Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during visit to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: President Ram Nath Kovind, his wife Savita Kovind and daughter Swati Kovind on Friday visited the cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum.

The President was accompanied by Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha.

"President Ram Nath Kovind reached Katra around 9:00 AM on Friday. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Divisional

Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and other senior officials. President Kovind prayed for peace, and prosperity in the country," said an official.

During his visit, the President went around the Shrine complex, viewed the

facilities and met with pilgrims.

Lt Governor, who is also the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, briefed the President about the initiatives being taken for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure for serving the increasing number of pilgrims.

After paying obeisance at the cave shrine, the president visited Bhairon Ghati to pay obeisance at the Bhairon Baba Temple.

Kovind had last visited the cave shrine in 2018.

The president was also honoured by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

In view of the president's visit, the helicopter service for pilgrims from Katra to Sanji Chhat was suspended for some time.

