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Amit Shah to...

minister directed security forces and the police to conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations pro-actively.

The Home Minister had said that in order to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir, security forces should ensure zero cross-border infiltration.

Taking stock of the Amarnath Yatra preparedness, Shah had said a "hassle-free" journey for the pilgrims is a priority of the Modi government and directed all arrangements, including additional electricity, water, and telecom facilities be made.

He had also stressed for enhancement of mobile connectivity along the yatra route as he directed that earth moving equipment should be placed at vantage points to clear the route in case of landslides.

The Home Minister had asked for an adequate number of oxygen cylinders, medical beds at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet and deployment of ambulances and helicopters to deal with any emergency medical situation.

During the previous meeting, it was also decided to enable WiFi hotspots to ensure connectivity throughout the 39 km of the yatra route from Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

The other route is through Baltal in central Kashmir where a pilgrim treks for nearly 15 km. The yatra could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and was cut short in 2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370. About three lakh pilgrims are likely to take part in the pilgrimage that is expected to end on August 11.

About 12,000 paramilitary personnel (120 companies) in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes, one from Pahalgam and the other via Baltal, officials said. Drone cameras will help the security forces to ensure the protection of the pilgrims.

Plea in SC...

than step-motherly treatment and discrimination .

Petitioner Supriya Pandita, who is a practicing advocate from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, has said in the plea that the entire legal fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has no government established body where they can get themselves enrolled and take benefits of the Bar Council as compared to other states in the country.

The Advocates Act, 1961, mandates every state should have State Bar Council and therefore, Bar Council for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh cannot be denied by the respondents, said the plea, filed through advocate Om Prakash Parihar.

It claimed that due to the non-availability of the State Bar Council, the advocates are even deprived of applying for the proximity cards for appearing before the apex court as no option for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is provided in the online application.

The advocate members from the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are unable to apply for the proximity card of this court as the application form for the proximity card of this court requires compulsory filing up the details of the State Bar Council, the plea said.

It has also sought a direction for issuing proximity cards to the advocate members from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh who wish to avail the benefit of this card issued by the apex court.

The plea said that while hearing another petition in February 2017, the apex court had noted in its order that the BCI, having duly considered the Jammu and Kashmir State Bar Council Rules, has approved the same and it was submitted on behalf of the BCI that the aforesaid rules have since been forwarded for publication in the official gazette.

Despite making this statement, the Bar Council of India...has not made any efforts to establish the Jammu and Kashmir State Bar Council, the plea claimed.

It also referred to the Centre's decision in August 2019 to abrogate provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Wasim Sadiq appointed...

He has won many landmark cases during his tenure as senior Additional advocate General for Home department and also as a counsel for University and SKUAST-J.

According to notifications issued by the Law Ministry, seven judicial officers from Bihar were elevated as judges of the Patna High Court.

Four additional judges of the Kerala High Court were also elevated as judges. The ministry also notified transfers of six judges.

Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash of Orissa High Court has been transferred to the Calcutta High Court.

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah of the Andhra Pradesh High Court has been transferred to the Patna High Court. Justice Subhasis Talaptra of the Tripura High Court has been transferred to the Orissa High Court.

Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh has been sent to the Bombay High Court, while Justice Lanusungkum Jamir of the Manipur High Court has been sent to the Gauhati High Court.

Justice Purushandra Kumar Kaurav of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has been transferred to the Delhi High Court.

The judicial officers elevated as judges of the Patna High Court are Shailendra Singh, Arun Kumar Jha, Jitendra Kumar, Alok Kumar Pandey, Sunil Dutta, Chandra Prakash Singh and Chandra Shekhar Jha.

The additional judges of the Kerala High Court elevated as judges are Murali Purushothaman, Ziyad Rahman Alevakkatt Abdul Rahiman, Karunakaran Babu and Dr Kauser Edappagath.

Migrant employees, others...

in every department to take up such matters and complaints seriously and on priority, they said.

Any lapse in dealing with complaints or harassment of the PM Package and minority community employees will be dealt with strictly", he said.

The sources said that confidence-building measures must be taken to ensure that the employees feel safe and secure. Senior officers to visit the employees for first-hand appraisal of concerning issues, they said.

The Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police (SPs) will actively monitor the complaints of such employees, it was decided.

Other issues of PM Package employees such as promotions and preparation of seniority lists must be completed within three weeks, they said.

The DCs and SSPs must carry out an assessment of accommodation of the PM Package and minority community employees, they said.

"It has to be ensured that no employee should work or reside in isolated areas or in a scattered manner," the source said.

The migrant employees have been holding protests demanding they be shifted out of the Valley following the terror killings. PTI AB 3/28/2022 AB.

KP employees say...

here tomorrow," one of their representatives said here Wednesday.

"We have decided that if the government did not take any concrete step for us (safety) within 24 hours, there will be mass migration again," one of the employees said here.

He said the target killing of Kashmiri Pandits is continuing and the community is now tired of making appeals with the government.

"We should be relocated so that we can be saved. Our delegation had met the LG earlier and we had asked him to save us. We are asking for temporary relocation for two to three years till the situation in the valley returns to normal. It is the same time frame put by IGP Kashmir for making Kashmir terrorism-free," he added.

Umesh Talashi, a National Conference leader from south Kashmir, hit out at the BJP for the present situation.

"Back to 1990, #KashmiriPandits out fixing the rates with truck drivers for shifting their base to Jammu after back to back target killings in #Kashmir. Another exodus on cards. #BJP missed to mention this while showcasing their 8 years of achievements yesterday!!!" Talashi tweeted.

Cong expresses concern...

Govt to ensure safety and security of innocents especially minority employees by shifting them to safer places , till the situation is brought under control.

In another resolution the Nav Sankalp Shivar strongly condemned the politics of vendetta being pursued by BJP Govt against the Congress Party and the opposition leaders and strongly criticized ED Summon to Congress President Sonia Gandhi and Former President Rahul Gandhi. It said that Congress shall not be frightened by such tactics of BJP and it shall fight back such politics as Congress was never frightened in fighting against the Britishers.

The two days Nav Sankalp Workshop at PATNITOP started today morning with traditional parade and flag hoisting by the AICC Incharge J&K Affairs Rajani Patil MP in presence of the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee President Ghulam Ahmad Mir, CWC Member Tariq Hameed Karra, PCC Working President Raman Bhalla, Vice President Mula Ram, Kanta Bhan, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, All India NSUI President Neeraj Kundan, AICC Members, General Secretaries, Secretaries, DCC Presidents, Working DCC Presidents, Frontal Organizations and other top leaders of the Party.

At the outset two-minute silence was observed in the memory of those who have become victims of the recently targeted killing in Kashmir:

Prayers were also held for noble soul of Prof. Bhim Singh a veteran politician who expired yesterday.

The group discussions were also held on current political and security atmosphere, organisational affairs, Social Justice, Women & Youth empowerment, which will also come up for discussion tomorrow for final draft.

Maintain highest level...

highways and infiltration routes on International Border and Line of Control. Addressing the meeting, the ADGP directed all the officers to maintain the high-



ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh reviewing security preparedness for Amarnath Yatra during a meeting in Jammu.

est level of alertness and synergy among themselves and also share the intelligence having direct bearing on the yatra in real time basis to foil the nefarious designs of Anti-National Elements and their mentors across the border.

Referring to the attempts being made by Pakistan to push terrorists into India, the ADGP stressed upon officers to organise night patrolling on the highways and infiltration routes regularly.

Singh also stressed upon all the officers that proper briefing be given to the forces being deployed for Road Opening Party duty to maintain utmost alertness so that smooth passage is given to all the vehicles going for the yatra.

The officers were directed to ensure adequate deployment in their respective districts particularly at base camps at Bhagwati Nagar (Jammu), Chanderkote (Ramban) and reception centres during the yatra.

On the border management front, the ADGP stressed upon the district SSPs of Jammu, Samba and Kathua to lay Joint checkpoints and ensure patrolling on all the probable infiltration routes and adequate deployed on all the drone dropping points as well as on terrorists pick points identified as these three districts are more vulnerable to cross-border infiltration.

He also directed that all Border Police Stations and Posts strengthen the checkpoints and ensure proper briefing be given to men by supervisory officers regularly regarding the nature of duties to be performed by them.

Apni Party leader...

providing special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

I had joined the Apni Party in national interest at a critical juncture of time in the wake of 2019 constitutional changes but in two years the party has lost its way, Malhotra, who had earlier resigned from the Congress to join the Apni Party, said in a statement.

He said he had written a detailed letter to party president Bukhari enlisting reasons for his resignation from the party.

It was a great experience working together with Bukhari as a person but the Apni Party lacks any coherent policy or programme for the future, he said.

Malhotra asserted that in the new political environment, Jammu deserves attention but the Apni Party appears unwilling to walk that extra mile.

I have remained a dedicated political worker my whole adult life and I will continue to serve the public in the best possible way, he said.

Malhotra is the third prominent leader to quit the Apni Party in Jammu region in the past nine months.

Earlier on April 20, Apni Party's women wing state president Namrata Sharma and several of her women colleagues resigned en masse from the party, following the footsteps of former legislator Kamal Arora.

Union Home Secy...

dredging of lake area. Dr. Mehta said that the condition of Dal Lake is much better today as compared to past as reflected in the lower BoD/DO content/values in the lake.

He further said that around 250 fountains would be installed in the lake this year, which would make it even more attractive tourist site in the country.

It was informed that 23 SHP projects with a capacity of around 10 MW each will be installed in J&K. Out of these 23 project, the feasibility/viability study of 6 projects is being done through IIT Roorkee and the remaining 7 projects will be sent for feasibility study in next 3 months.

Dr. Mehta said that under SWADESH 1.0, 74 projects have been completed and under SWADESH DARSHAN 2.0. More projects are being submitted for approval as per revised guidelines within 3 months. Secretary Tourism, J&K informed that 75 new tourist destinations have been identified for development and the proposals for development of these destinations will be submitted to Tourism Ministry under SWEDESH DARSHAN 2.0 shortly.

As regards the project "Plan for Comprehensive flood management of River Jhelum and its tributies -Phase-II", the Chief Secretary, informed that the drainage capacity of river Jhelum has been enhanced by 10,000 cusecs at Sangam. Dr Mehta further said that under the next phase of this plan, the drainage capacity shall be increased to 60,000 cusecs.

The Chief Secretary urged the executing agencies to expedite the work on these projects as these are pivotal for economy of the UT. He expressed optimism that the work on Baramulla-Gulmarg road and Jammu-Akhnour road will be completed on time as the execution work is going on smoothly on these projects.

Citing the importance of the PMDP Projects in J&K, Union Home Secretary exhorted all the stake-holders to speed up the implementation of these projects to complete them within the set timelines so as to pass their intended benefits to the people of J&K.

The Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta assured the Home Secretary that the UT administration would extend all possible support to the central agencies in the implementation of PMDP projects.

Peace cannot be...

suspension of Mata Kheer Bhawan yatra in Kashmir, he said that security and safety is prime thing for anyone and his family. "If a person is not safe, how can he run daily affairs? Everyone seeks safety first and safety of the family. There is no safety and security today."

Asserting that there cannot be peace in Jammu and Kashmir till you win hearts of the people , Abdullah said killing of a teacher gives a vivid picture of security situation and shows the level of peace prevailing in the Union Territory.

"A female teacher, who was living there (in Kashmir) was martyred. This shows how much is peace prevailing in J&K. This shows how much safe we are," Abdullah said.

He stated that they (government) say peace is prevailing in Kashmir, despite the fact that Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims are being killed.

"Are those people, who have gone from here to teach there in villages, protected? Do they have security? Talks and claims would do nothing, he said, adding "the government has to find out a way to bring us out of this trouble".

Emotions run high...

be named after Bala.

"We demand that the school in the village be named after Rajni Bala and the transfer policy be reviewed to transfer Hindus out of Kashmir. Kashmir is not a safe place for Hindu employees," said a villager Narinder Kumar.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, who also attended Bala's last rites, said her death would be avenged by ensuring the burial of her killers.

Besides her husband, Bala is survived by her 13-year-old daughter:

Govt allows procurement...

IFFCO, and their 27 crore members, as they would get products at competitive rates from the GeM portal.

These cooperatives will be benefited from this decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters.

As per the existing mandate, goods and services registered on the GeM portal are not available for use by private sector buyers. Suppliers (sellers) can be from across all segments - government or private.

The decision was taken by the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The GeM was launched on August 9, 2016, by the commerce ministry to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.

An official statement said the validated list of cooperatives to be onboarded on GeM - for the pilot as well as subsequent scale-up basis will be decided by the Ministry of Cooperation in consultation with GeM special purpose vehicle (SPV).

This will help in ensuring that the technical capacity and logistics requirements of the GeM system are taken into account while deciding the pace of onboarding of cooperatives as buyers on GeM, it added.

Explaining it further, the statement said the GeM will provide a dedicated onboarding process for cooperatives, technical infrastructure to support additional users on existing portals, as well as assistance to cooperatives for onboarding and transaction journey via available contact centres, in-field training and other support services.

The GeM will initiate suitable actions, including the creation of necessary features and functionalities on the GeM portal, up-gradation of infrastructure, strengthening of the helpdesk and training ecosystem and onboarding of cooperatives.

The cooperation ministry will issue necessary advisories to encourage the cooperative societies to make use of the platform for the procurement of goods and services, the statement said.

To protect the interests of the broader seller community on GeM and ensure timely payments, the modalities of payment systems would also be decided by GeM in consultation with the ministry.

The overall pace and mechanism of roll-out would be decided by the cooperation ministry, it said, adding the milestones and target dates will be aligned mutually between the ministry and GeM.

"Since the societies have more than 27 crore members, procurement through GeM would not only economically benefit the common man, but would also enhance the credibility of the cooperatives," it noted.

Further, it said that while the GeM SPV will continue to leverage the existing platform and organisation for supporting the proposed expanded mandate, it may need some investments in additional technology infrastructure and training and support resources.

To cover these incremental costs, GeM may charge an appropriate transaction fee from cooperatives, to be decided in mutual consultation with the Ministry of Cooperation.

Such charges will not be more than the charges that GeM levies on other government buyers.

This will be planned to ensure the self-sustainability of operations for GeM, and hence no major financial implication is expected for the government.

At present, the platform is open for procurement by all government buyers -- central and state ministries, departments, public sector enterprises, autonomous institutions and local bodies.

The annual gross merchandise value from the GeM platform has increased from Rs 16,972 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 1,06,760 crore in 2021-22. Products registered have risen to 54,73,867 in 2021-22 from 1,41,982 in 2018-19.

The cumulative seller count on the platform has jumped to over 40 lakh in 2021-22 from 86,835 in 2017-18. Buyers too have increased to 59,130 during the last fiscal from 21,254 in 2017-18.

Dedicated cell in...

related to minorities in Kashmir.

Members of minority community facing any difficulty can contact the designated officer on the dedicated e-mail ID: jk.minoritycell@gmail.com or can register his/her grievances on the 0194-2506111 and 0194-2506112 between 10:00 AM to 05:30 PM.

The cell shall be headed by Additional Secretary (Administration), General Administration Department.

This is in addition to the existing Special cell at LG Secretariat.

Six new COVID cases in J&K, 3 in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported six new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, taking the infection tally in the Union Territory to 4,54,255, officials said here.

All the six cases were reported from Jammu district, the officials said.

There are 56 active cases of the disease in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,447, the officials said.

The death toll from the pandemic remains unchanged at as no Covid-related fatality was

reported in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Ladakh's COVID-19 caseload increased to 28,266 as three more people tested positive for the viral disease during the past 24 hours, officials said.

All of the fresh cases were detected in Leh, they said. The death toll remained unchanged at 228. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh stands at seven. So far, 28,033 patients have recovered, the officials said.

GDC Doda organises blood donation camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: To observe World No Tobacco Day, NSS Unit, NCC (Infantry & Navy)& Red Cross Unit of college organized a blood donation camp at Blood Bank, AH GMC Doda under the aegis of IQAC and banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The camp was organized under the guidance and patronage of Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal, Principal of the college, in which 10 NSS volunteers/ NCC cadets from the college donated blood.

Principal of the college lauded the efforts of donor volunteers for making a healthy contribution to the society on the occasion of



NSS volunteer donating blood during a camp.

World No Tobacco Day. Dr. Arjun Singh and Prof. Zain Batt played an important role in motivating the NCC cadets for this noble contribution. The volunteers were accompanied by Prof. Preeti Devi (Convenor, Red Cross

Unit), Dr. Jagmohan Sharma and Prof. Akrity Parihar (Member, Red Cross Unit). The blood donation camp was smoothly conducted with the close cooperation of the hospital staff at Blood Bank, AH GMC Doda.

Developed nations should take lead in transition towards net-zero: India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday said the developed nations must take the lead in the global transition towards net-zero and low-carbon industry.

Delivering the opening address at the "Industry Transition Dialogue" being hosted by India and Sweden in Stockholm, Yadav also said the developing world needs not just an industrial transition but an industrial renaissance a flowering of industries that will create jobs and prosperity along with a clean environment.

The dialogue is part of

India and Sweden's joint initiative "Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT)" which focuses on hard-to-abate sectors that are the key stakeholders in global climate action and require specific interventions.

Yadav said it is time to celebrate 50 years of collaborative action and introspect on what has been achieved and what more is yet to be done. "The developing world needs not just an industrial transition but an industrial renaissance a flowering of industries that will create jobs and prosperity along with a clean environment. The developed nations, with

their historical experiences, must take the lead in the global transition towards net-zero and low-carbon industry," a statement quoted Yadav as saying.

Net zero means achieving a balance between greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

At the event, Japan and South Africa, the latest members to join the initiative, were welcomed.

India has repeatedly emphasised that developed countries should take the lead in reducing carbon emissions drastically as they have contributed the most to global warming historically.