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SFs have upper..

Governor. Highlighting the need to enhance interaction and to promote mutual understanding among the regions, the Lt Governor said that this Special National Integration Camp in Srinagar has certainly enabled the youth coming from different parts of the country to create a better understanding about Jammu and Kashmir.

Today, J&K is performing better than many other States/UTs in sectors like business, health, smart city projects, education, digitization, e-governance, infrastructure, connectivity, sports, innovation, startups, per capita energy etc, the Lt Governor said.

J&K, which was kept away from industrial growth for decades, has now become a promising destination for investors and industries from all over the world, added the Lt Governor.

Around 200 cadets participated from across the country in the camp organized by National Cadets Corps, Directorate of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

Major General Tejinder Kumar, Additional Director General, NCC Directorate, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, while speaking on the occasion said that the special National Integration Camp celebrated the diverse cultures of the Nation and the spirit of unity in diversity, besides showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Brigadier KS Kalsi gave a brief presentation on the different activities, programs and campaigns undertaken by the NCC cadets during the special National Integration camp organized as part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme in Srinagar.

The Lt Governor also interacted with the NCC cadets and wished them success in their future endeavours.

On the occasion, NCC cadets showcased the rich and diverse cultures of India through their performances. Col. SS Guleria, officers of NCC Directorates, NCC cadets from across the country were present on the occasion.

Around 3 lakh...

also launched an awareness campaign to inform the public, especially drivers, about various steps which are required to be followed to avoid any untoward incident.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur, has started an awareness campaign in the district which falls on Jammu-Srinagar national highway to inform the drivers about the threat of sticky bombs.

"Such a campaign will be taken to all the districts and we are fully confident that the yatra will culminate in a peaceful manner," he said.

During this year's yatra, SASB has decided to put in place a daily route-wise pilgrims ceiling to 10,000, excluding those travelling by helicopters.

The board has also decided to extend the free-of-cost battery car service for the pilgrims at the 2.75 km-long Baltal to Domel stretch.

Hundreds of pilgrims including Sadhus, have already started arriving in Jammu and are enthusiastic about undertaking the pilgrimage, a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood.

Apprehension remains on...

they would give preference to 'Agniveers' in the recruitment for police, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said it has decided to reserve 10 per cent vacancies in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles for 'Agniveers'.

However, experts believe that the process would not be so simple.

A state police recruitment board head said reservation cannot be more than 50 per cent in employment and most of the 'Agniveers' will be in the unreserved category as the Army has no reservation system.

"So, the idea that they can be absorbed in CAPFs and state police may not work. They have to be considered only against 50 per cent of unreserved vacancies. It will also mean that meritorious and better-educated non-Agniveers will find it difficult to join the police. This will impact the efficiency of the police."

"So, how does the policy of Army recruitment reconcile with the system of reservation in the civilian sector of the government," the state police recruitment board head asked.

Experts also believe that the entire process may come under legal scrutiny as it is not clear whether the pay of a retired 'Agniveer' after the four-year stint in the armed forces will be protected and seniority maintained.

"This will be a tight rope walk for the government as this needs to be cleared to avoid any disgruntlement among the constables recruited directly by the state police," an expert said.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said youths who will serve the nation under the 'Agnipath' scheme would be given guaranteed 'Group C' (non-gazetted posts) or Haryana Police jobs.

However, the state government is yet to spell out how much percentage of the government jobs will be reserved for the 'Agniveers'.

Similarly, the Uttarakhand government plans to adjust 'Agniveers' in police, disaster and 'Char Dham' management departments.

"The idea is to use the services of the young and skilled 'Agniveers' in different sectors," Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhani had said. However, no specific quota has been announced for the 'Agniveers' in Uttarakhand government jobs.

The Uttarakhand government already has a scheme to give jobs to retired defence personnel and their dependents as per their abilities in different departments through the Uttarakhand ex-servicemen welfare association or Uttarakhand Poorva Sainik Kalyan Nigam Limited (UPNL).

About 30,000-35,000 ex-servicemen and their dependents have been given jobs through UPNL in the state, former chief secretary Subhash Kumar said.

Many of them have been made clerks and peons in different government departments through UPNL, he said.

The governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam have announced that they will reserve jobs for 'Agniveers' in police recruitment but are yet to spell out the percentage or how they will go about it.

When contacted, UP Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi told PTI: "The state government will give priority to 'Agniveers' in the recruitment of UP police as announced by the chief minister".

A senior police officer posted at UP police headquarters on the condition of anonymity said, "We have not received any direction from the government to finalise the modalities of prioritising 'Agniveers' in police recruitment."

"The chief minister's announcement for giving priority to 'Agniveers' will be followed. We still have enough time to plan as the first batch of retired can only join UP police after four years, at least," he said.

As of now, no reservation is provided to retired defence personnel in UP police recruitment.

A Madhya Pradesh government home department official said the process to frame rules on recruiting 'Agniveer' in the state police force is under consideration and it will be finalised in the days to come as it is too early now.

On the other hand, non-BJP ruled states like Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, which contribute a significant number of youths to the armed forces, sought withdrawal of the scheme, giving a clear indication that they have no plans to reserve government jobs for 'Agniveers'.

Aam Aadmi Party-ruled Punjab's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann demanded a rollback of the scheme and claimed that it will "dilute" the fighting ability of soldiers.

The Rajasthan council of ministers passed a resolution demanding the withdrawal of the scheme at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Congress is in power in Rajasthan.

DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M K Stalin alleged the proposal was against national interest and wanted its withdrawal.

Interestingly BJP ally Nitish Kumar, the chief minister of Bihar, which saw maximum violence and damage to railways and other government properties, has not spoken on the 'Agnipath' scheme, though his party JD(U) has said that the Centre needs to allay the apprehensions of those opposing it.

Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh's commissioner of state's public relations department Dipanshu Kabra said an additional quota to 'Agniveers' would lead to discontent among local youths, who aspire to get recruited into the police force as there is already a 10 per cent quota for ex-servicemen in Chhattisgarh police constabulary recruitment.

"At present, we have 25 per cent reservation for home guards, 15 per cent for assistant constables and 10 per cent for ex-servicemen in state police constabulary recruitment.

"Any further reservation for 'Agniveers' separately would hamper the objective of recruiting young and fresh youths into the local police force" Kabra, a 1997-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, told PTI.

Since there is already a 10 per cent reservation for ex-servicemen in police constable recruitment, 'Agniveers' would naturally fit into the existing quota of reservation for ex-servicemen, he said.

Maharashtra Additional Director General of Police (Training and Special Forces) Sanjay Kumar refused to comment on the issue.

"This is a policy decision. We can't comment on whether Maharashtra Police

will absorb 'Agniveers' or not. The state government will decide about the same. If the government asks us, we will give our opinion on it, but as a bureaucrat, we can't speak as it is a policy decision," he said.

BJP-ruled Gujarat is yet to make any announcement on giving reservation to the 'Agniveers' in state police recruitment.

A senior Gujarat government official said the state government has started deliberations and an official announcement may come soon.

At present, there is a 10 per cent quota for the regular ex-servicemen in the recruitment of policemen, such as constables and sub-inspectors.

"To accommodate ex-army men in the police force as per the prescribed quota, Gujarat police gives them various relaxations, such as lower passing marks than regular candidates, higher age limit and relaxations in the physical exams," said state Director General of Police Ashish Bhatia.

Bhatia said the Gujarat police gives 10 per cent reservation to ex-servicemen in recruitment and now it is up to the state government whether to consider these 'Agniveers' as regular ex-servicemen or not.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who has already announced that there will be reservation for 'Agniveers' in government jobs, said the exact percentage of reservation for 'Agniveers' in services like police, fire and emergency services, forest department and prison department will be decided by the state cabinet.

The Centre on June 14 had unveiled the ambitious 'Agnipath' scheme for the recruitment of youths aged between 17 and a half and 21 in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, largely on a four-year short-term contractual basis.

Two days later, on June 16, it raised the upper age limit for recruitment to 23 years for 2022 as the protests against the new model for enrolment of soldiers into the three services intensified.

After the completion of the four-year tenure, 25 per cent of the recruits from each batch will be offered regular service.

Police officers of eastern states such as Bihar, Assam and West Bengal are tight-lipped about recruiting Agniveers' after their retirement, saying it is a policy decision that has to be made by the respective government.

Since 2006, ex-servicemen are being recruited in Bihar as Special Auxiliary Police personnel on a two-year contract and this model was later followed by several states, former director general of Bihar police, Abhayanand, said.

"But the recruitment of Agniveers' (after retirement from the defence services) by the state police will not be contractual. Therefore, legal aspects of this scheme need to be examined," the former DGP told the PTI.

An Assam police officer said, "Reservation (for Agniveers) is possible if the government takes a policy decision. We already have a scope for ex-servicemen. So, if the government issues an order, it can be done."

A top bureaucrat of West Bengal told PTI that the administration has not thought about recruiting Agniveers' into the police force.

"Let the central government announce and write to us, then we will see, he said.

In the South, the BJP government in Karnataka has not yet decided on holding any discussion on recruiting the Agniveers' in the police department, a top police officer said.

"There is no discussion whatsoever at the government level to recruit the Agniveers' in the police department. It is possible that it may start after four-five years once the Agnipath' scheme takes off, a senior police officer told PTI on condition of anonymity.

The situation is the same in Andhra Pradesh, where the YSR Congress party is in power. There is no clarity if the Centre has taken up the issue with the Andhra Pradesh government. A Kerala government spokesman said everything will be decided based on the policy decisions of the state government.

1975 Emergency 'black...

"dictatorial mindset" through democratic means.

Addressing the Indian community members who had come to Munich after travelling long distances, Modi lauded the contribution of the diaspora in promoting India's success story and acting as brand ambassadors of India's success. The Prime Minister highlighted India's growth story and mentioned various initiatives undertaken by the government to further achieve the country's development agenda.

"In last century, Germany and other countries benefited from the 3rd Industrial Revolution. India was a slave back then that's why it couldn't leverage benefits. But now India will not be left behind in the 4th Industrial Revolution, it's now leading the world," Modi said.

He said India has shown how well democracy is delivering in such a vast and so diverse country. "The way crores of Indians have achieved big goals together, it is unprecedented. Today every village in India is open defecation free, has electricity and 99% of the villages also have clean cooking fuel. India has been providing free ration to 80 crore poor people since the last 2 years, he added.

Modi said that drone technology is being used which is unprecedented. In India's many places, fertilisers are being sprayed using drones, he said.

He also said that India has started the Swamitwa Yojana under which land's mapping in Indian villages is being made through drones only.

"This list of achievements is very long. If I keep speaking, your dinner time will be over. When a country takes correct decisions with correct intentions on time, then it is destined for development," he said, amid chants of Modi-Modi from the crowd.

"In Information technology, digital technology, India is making its presence felt. Forty per cent digital transactions in the world are from India. India is making new records in data consumption. India is among the countries where data is cheapest, he said.

In the 21st Century's new India, the fast way people adopt technology is exciting.

"Today's India has come out of the mentality of It happens, it runs like this'. Today India takes a pledge to 'have to do', 'have to do' and 'have to do on time', he said.

"India now is ready, prompt for development, for its dreams. Today, India believes in itself and its capabilities. That's why we're breaking old records and achieving new goals, he said.

Modi said that 90% adults have taken both doses of Covid vaccines in India and 95% have taken at least one dose.

"This is the same India, about which some people were saying that it will take 10-15 years to vaccinate the 1.25 billion population, Modi said.

Made in India vaccine has saved crores of lives across the world, he added.

He said the courage of the people of India is our biggest strength even in the most difficult of circumstances. Last year we did the highest export so far. This is proof that on one hand, our manufacturers are ready for new opportunities, while the world is also looking at us with hope and confidence, he said.

Modi said that climate change is just not a matter of government policies in India. "The youth of India is investing in EVs and other similar pro-climate technologies. Sustainable climate practices are becoming a part of the lives of ordinary people of India today, he added.

"Today cleanliness is becoming a lifestyle in India. The people of India, the youth of India are considering it their duty to keep the country clean. Today the people of India are confident that their money is used honestly for the country, corruption is not getting paid. That's why tax compliance is increasing rapidly in the country, he said.

Div Com, ADGP...

while speaking on the occasion, assured the stakeholders that all necessary arrangements for smooth conduct of Yatra shall be put in place well in advance including transportation, Boarding and lodging and other facilities En-route Yatra.

He also assured that the developmental issue raised in the meeting shall be taken care of. He directed officers of line departments to make necessary arrangements well in advance to make hassle free Yatra this year.

The ADGP Jammu Zone, while addressing the meeting, thanked the stakeholders for the cooperation they extended in maintaining law and order in the district in the wake of a few incidents that happened a few days back. He assured the members of civil society that foolproof security arrangements will be put in place. He said district police in coordination with security agencies were performing their duty with utmost sincerity in the sensitive border district.

Earlier, he held a detailed security review with different security agencies and officers of district police.

500 tribal youth...

Lt Governor said, after many years of wait, the Forest Rights Act was implemented by the government last year. The UT administration is setting up 100 Van Dhan Kendras in Jammu and Kashmir for sustainable livelihood of the tribal families.

The government is also starting 1500 Van Dhan Self Help Groups to make women of the tribal community financially independent and empowered, he further added.

On this historic occasion, MoUs were signed between Tribal Affairs Department and IIT Jammu and Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri for establishing Tribal Chair in both the institutes.

The Lt Governor termed the establishment of Tribal Chairs a milestone in academic research and preserving the cultural heritage of the tribal community. 'It

will bridge the gap in research, institutional support. The collaboration will work towards preservation of rare books, language styles, socio-cultural heritage and most importantly, the documented history can be digitized', he added.

The Lt Governor said Tribal Research Institute in J&K is preserving tribal cultural heritage, felicitating outstanding achievers from tribal communities, identifying problems related to tribals, pursuing research activities for capacity building to fully realize their potential.

Guided by the high ideals of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' of the Prime Minister, the UT administration is not only proudly appreciating the indispensable contribution of tribal society but also steadfastly moving towards establishing a new social order based on social equity and social harmony in the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Lt Governor observed.

We have evolved an effective and comprehensive strategy, being executed at grassroots level for enhancing income of tribal families and providing life-filling opportunities to youth, best possible medical care facilities and bringing each family under social security net, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said, for the first time in the history, ASHA health workers from the tribal community are being appointed to work for the health care of the population living in the high pasture region during the summer season. The government has launched Tele-medicine scheme to reach out to tribal population living in far flung areas with the services of specialist doctors. In addition to the Tribal Health Plan started last year, Tele Medicine and Mobile Medical Care Unit will bring much needed transformation in health care of tribal families, he noted.

The Lt Governor observed that in the last two years, the UT government has worked towards achieving the balanced development of infrastructure as well as the human resources through a host of unprecedented policy decisions, schemes and programmes.

Terming education as the most potent tool for the progress of tribal communities, the Lt Governor said budget for scholarship has been increased to Rs 45 crore from the last year's Rs. 31 Crore.

Lauding the efforts of the officials of the Tribal Affairs Department of the UT, the Lt Governor called upon the department to focus on convergence of all available welfare schemes so that maximum benefits are percolated at the grassroots level.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the recent launch of Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana for rapid and inclusive development of tribal villages. He also urged the UT Tribal Department to review programs related to climate action and initiate Annual Earth Care Awards, to be awarded for tribal community based performance.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, termed the occasion as a significant beginning to the new era for the development of Tribal community. The initiatives launched today were part of our endeavor to connect the tribal population with the mainstream of development, he added.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, highlighted various initiatives taken to empower the tribal community of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event also witnessed the inauguration and launch of various initiatives for the welfare of the tribal community including First edition of TRI Newsletter, Web-Portal of Tribal Research Institute, Tribal Helpline, State-of-the-Art Computer Lab, Skill Development Programme for tribal Vulnerable Groups, Tele-Consultation facility for migratory tribal population, smart survey app for nomadic tribal communities, and a book titled 'Khanabadosh'.

Later, the Lt Governor flagged off 41 Ambulances for different cluster tribal villages.

Prof. Akbar Masood, Vice-Chancellor BGSBU; Deputy Commissioners from various Districts; PRI members; prominent citizens and members of Tribal Community in large numbers were present on the occasion.

J&K logs 56...

4756 have died; 2331 in the Jammu division and 2425 in the Valley. Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases during the past 24 hours, the Bulletin stated that Jammu reported 37 cases, Srinagar seven cases, Samba and Anantnag reported three cases each, Kulgam reported two cases, Udhampur, Kathua, Pulwama and Poonch recorded one case each, while as no other district across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir reported any fresh case. Meanwhile, Ladakh's Covid tally increased to 28,353 as five more people tested positive for the viral disease in the union territory during the past 24 hours, officials said. All the fresh cases were detected in Leh district, they said. So far, 228 people have succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, according to the officials. The officials said the number of active cases in Ladakh stands at 43 -- 42 in Leh and one in Kargil. A total of 4,629 people, including 2,477 air passengers, were screened for COVID-19 in Leh and Kargil districts on Saturday, they said. Three people were discharged from hospitals in Leh after recovering from the disease. With this, the total number of recoveries stands at 28,082, the officials said.

Basant Rath's resignation...

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in respect of the Forest Service. As Minister in Charge of the DoPT, the Prime Minister makes decisions regarding the IAS. Inspector General Police Basant Rath has resigned from the Indian Police Service (IPS) but not elaborated the reasons beyond indicating that he will join electoral politics in Kashmir. Posted on social media his resignation letter early this morning, he wrote "Politics is a noble profession.

Basant Rath, presently posted in Home Guards and Civil Defence, was placed under suspension for alleged instances of "gross misconduct and misbehaviour", according to an order issued by the Home Ministry in July 2020. He shocked his friends early this morning at 4.20 am when he posted his resignation letter dated 25 June on social media.

"If I ever join a political party, it WILL be BJP. If I ever contest an election, it WILL be from Kashmir. If I ever join politics, it WILL be before March 6, 2024", he wrote on social media before posting his resignation.

In the resignation addressed to the Chief Secretary of J&K, with copies endorsed to the DGP J&K Police and Commandant General, HG/CD & SDRF J&K, he wrote: "Sir, I wish to resign from the IPS in order to be able to participate in electoral politics. Please consider this letter as my request for resignation/voluntary retirement and process it accordingly".

The move comes in the wake of the Delimitation Commission finalizing its report with regard to the delimitations of the seats for the Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the process for revising the elector al rolls about to begin.

The 50 years old Basant Rath, born in 1972 in Pipli of Puri district in Odisha, did MA in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Online Inter college competition on World Drug Day organised at GDC Marh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To observe International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking, Drug De-Addiction Cell, GDC Marh under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav, organized an online Inter-college poster-making and slogan writing competitions for the students on Sunday.

The programme was held under the patronage of Principal Prof. Aekta Gupta. She said that celebration of such days helps in raising awareness about the negative impact, consequences of drugs on society and illegal trafficking.

She also appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee, jury members and the participants.

Prof. Shipra Gupta (Asstt. Prof. SPMR college) and Prof. Archana (Asstt. Prof. GDC Paloura), acted as judges for the event.

In the event, a total of 40 students from different colleges participated.

In the Poster- making category, the first rank was secured by Ritika Chodhary, BA 4th Sem, PSPS Govt. PG college for Women Gandhi Nagar; second rank was bagged by Muskan Chib, BA 4th Sem, GDC Marh and Manisha Devi, BA 6th Sem, GDC Jindrah got third rank in the event.

In the slogan- writing category, Reetu Singh Bhau, KC College of Education bagged first position, Isha Sharma, BA 6th Sem, GDC Neeli Nallah, Udhampur secured second rank and Arushi Sharma, Sem 1st, GCE got third rank respectively. The event was organised by Dr. Shakun Sharma and coordinated by Prof. Anjana Chib.