!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Sinha flags off...

J&K and asked the officers for mapping entire health infrastructure of J&K through this application so that general masses can be benefited through this mobile app.

Dwivedi also appreciated the department for taking this initiative forward as well as for implementation and the launch of the portal/application in short period.

Pertinently, under the newly launched Mobile App, mobile ambulances network including 102 and 108 ambulance system of more than 200 ambulances has also been mapped through the application and shall also be available in real time for the pilgrims. By pressing one button on the application, the nearest ambulances driver shall get activated and reach that spot which shall also merge with the "Google maps" to give directions and indicate the anticipated time to reach that health facility. The Do's and Don'ts for the pilgrims have also been incorporated into the application for the safety of the pilgrims.

In Jammu, Daleep Singh, a devotee from Barmer in Rajasthan, said, "There is no fear, no threat, only unbridled passion to reach the cave shrine quickly and have a glimpse of Lord Shiva."

Asha Devi, who is a part of an over 40-member group of pilgrims from Kanpur, said, "We urge people from all over the country to come and pay obeisance at the cave shrine."

Multi-tier security arrangements have been put in place in and around the base camps, lodging, registration and token centres with the deployment of over 5,000 security personnel in Jammu city, officials said.

The yatra will commence on June 30 from the traditional 48-km Nunwan route in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and the 14-km Baltal route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

According to officials, over three lakh pilgrims have registered so far for the annual Amarnath Yatra.

This year, the government has introduced a Radio Frequency Identification to track the movement and well-being of the pilgrims, they said.

"Adequate security measure has been put in place for the base camps and lodging places in Jammu city. Security is a major challenge," Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police Chandan Kohli said.

The police have issued special stickers for vehicles ferrying pilgrims. No vehicle without the sticker will be allowed to proceed towards the cave shrine, officials said.

Over 3.42 lakh pilgrims had paid obeisance at the shrine from July 1 to August 1, 2019, before the government cancelled the pilgrimage midway ahead of the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.

Centre asks states...

of COVID-19' issued by the Centre on June 9.

Bhushan asked them to implement the revised strategy which focuses on early detection and timely management of suspected and confirmed cases, and the containment of outbreaks of new coronavirus variants.

Bhushan said the June 9 strategy was issued with the long-term vision to fully integrate COVID-19 surveillance within existing Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) mechanism.

Summarising the actions that states need to take, Bhushan said they should ensure "Surveillance of Incoming International Travelers which will include random screening of 2 per cent of passengers in each incoming flight into India by RT-PCR".

He asked them that all positive specimens should be sent for genome sequencing and such passengers should be advised isolation and clinically managers as per prevailing guidelines.

He also said all healthcare facilities should report Influenza Like Illness (ILI) cases, and mentioned that the District Surveillance Officer (DSO) will be responsible to analyse the data.

Five per cent of ILI cases shall be tested through RT-PCR, he said.

Health facilities should ensure monitoring of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases in all district hospitals and selected tertiary hospitals and undertake their RT-PCR test for Covid, he said.

State IDSP shall share this data on a fortnightly basis and the lab testing for COVID-19 should upload their data on Indian Council for Medical Research portal, he said.

The revised strategy further stressed on community-based surveillance for early detection of unusual events in the community such as large outbreaks, unusual clinical presentation of cases, mortality, etc.

Bhushan said the three-pronged genomic surveillance strategy should be implemented by states and UTs. Also, positive samples from large clusters or outbreaks in the community and unusual events should also be sent for whole genome sequencing. In addition, revised surveillance guidelines also call for sewage and wastewater surveillance which may provide early warnings on the potential local surge of COVID-19, the letter said.

"Please ensure that the guidelines are disseminated to all districts, and identified health facilities and labs across the state and their implementation shall be ensured.

"I am sure the state governments and UT administrations shall make these guidelines to enable us to retain and build on the gains made so far in this fight against COVID-19," the letter said.

COVID: 73 fresh...

confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), officials added.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded 13 new Covid cases that pushed the infection tally to 28,389, 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 officials.

The number of active cases stands at 67 -- 66 in Leh and one in Kargil, they said.

A total of 408 sample reports were tested in Ladakh, officials said, adding that 349 sample reports in Leh and 46 in Kargil tested negative, officials said.

Five people in Leh were discharged after recovering from the infection, taking the overall recoveries to 28,094, officials said.

As many as 1,779 passengers were screened at the Leh airport, 858, including drivers and helpers of trucks and light motor vehicles, were screened at Khaltse and 280 people were screened at the Upshi check-post, they added.

Two LeT terrorists...

the joint teams for conducting the operation in professional manner without collateral damage. He also termed the operation as a big success as the operation site was very close to National Highway.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 01 AK-47 rifle and a pistol were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated.

Meanwhile, In Bandipora, acting on specific input, Police along with Army (14RR) and CRPF (3rdBn) at a joint checkpoint established at Papchan area of Bandipora arrested one hybrid terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT alongwith 01 Chinese Grenade which he had kept inside dicky of his Scooty, bearing registration number JK15A-0839. He has been identified as Mehboob-ul-Inam alias Farhaan son of Inam-ul-Haq Shah resident of Nadihal Bandipora.

During interrogation, he disclosed that on the directions of proscribed terror outfit LeT he has made a hideout inside his shop at Nadihal Market where LeT terrorists namely Hyder alias Abu Muslim, Abu Ismail alias Faisal, Abu Hamza Okasha and Gulzar alias Faizan used to stay. Furthermore, he also confessed that they had kept Arms and Ammunition inside the said hideout, which they were planning to provide to new recruits from North Kashmir particularly youths from District Bandipora to strengthen the LeT Cadre and to enhance terrorist related activities.

Subsequent to his disclosure, the hideout was busted and huge cache of arms and ammunition including three AK-47 rifles, 10 AK Magazines, 380 AK live rounds, three Pouches, two YSMS Set, two boxes of Detonator were recovered. Case has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

In a related development, Police in Budgam have arrested one more terrorist associate of proscribed terror outfit LeT in connection with case FIR No. 116/2022 of Police Station Chadoora pertaining to busting of Narco terror funding module. He has been identified as Showkat Ahmed Ganie alias RK son of Late Mohammad Kamal Ganie resident of Shiekhpora Wathoora, Chadoora.

During the investigation of the said case, it came to fore that the arrested terrorist associate was also involved in providing logistic support to proscribed terror outfit LeT by distributing proceeds of narcotics to active terrorists and terror operatives of the outfit. Further investigation into the case is going on, according to a police handout.

24 JKAS officers...

Tanveer Ahmad, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kangan, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Kangan, as Joint Director, Employment, Kashmir; Mohammad Aslam, JKAS, Deputy Director, Estates, Kashmir as Joint Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir; Dhirender Sharma, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Ramban as Joint Director, Education, Udhampur/Reasi; Bilkees Jan, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ganderbal as Joint Registrar, Cooperative Societies (Special), Kashmir; Ashima Sher, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Hqr); Ideel Saleem, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Anantnag as Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), J&K; Atul Kumar, JKAS, Secretary, Jammu Municipal Corporation as Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Jammu; Ashok Kumar, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Jammu as Joint Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu; Khalid Hussain, JKAS, Assistant Settlement Officer, Jammu, as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Poonch; Vishwajeet, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Ramban as Additional Secretary, Culture Department; Rakesh Kumar Vaid, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner in the State Taxes Department, Jammu, as Joint Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, Jammu; Sohan Lal, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, as Registrar, GCET, Jammu; and Joginder Singh Jasrotia, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bani, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Bani, has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Samba.

"Further, the officers who have been assigned duties relating to Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2022 shall join at their new places of postings after completion of Yatra," it added.

As per another order, Aziz Ahmad Rather, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner (Central) in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department; Mita Kumari, JKAS, Deputy Director, Libraries, Jammu, as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Udhampur; Aadil Fareed, JKAS, Deputy Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department as Assistant Commissioner (Central) in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; and Dharam Paul, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Libraries, Jammu.

"Waqar Talib, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is hereby posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department, with immediate effect," reads another order.

Farooq, Mir, Raina...

A spokesperson of the PDP said it was strange that the office of the Lt Governor was inviting leaders for a high tea meeting at such a sensitive time.

"If there were something to be discussed, an agenda should have been set for the meeting," PDP chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari said.

Earlier, reacting to the invitation, Bukhari tweeted, "For a meeting in the evening that is supposed to be a serious affair, the invitation is sent in the morning. What a mockery! By the way what happened to the outcome of the all parties meeting chaired by @PMOIndia in which @OfficeOfLGJandK and @HMOIndia was also present?"

He also said it was ironic that the security apparatus denied Mehbooba permission to visit her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's grave in Anantnag district on the same day when the administration was inviting her for the meeting.

Abdullah, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, said he has received the invitation but has not been informed about its agenda.

"I arrived from Delhi today only. I have received the card but the agenda is not mentioned. I will go there and find out what is it all about," he said.

The Congress also lamented that no agenda was fixed for the meeting.

Helicopter services open...

according to the order from Ladakh's civil aviation department.

"Individuals desirous of booking on the notified routes can book the tickets online at https://heliservice.ladakh.gov.in/", the order said.

A distinct booking mechanism has been made available on the portal for passengers other than the residents of Ladakh, they said.

The order said that the availability of a ticket will depend upon the number of passengers, weather conditions, or any other operational restrictions.

The administration has opened the services with two choppers -- a five-seater B-3 chopper and a larger Mi-172--, they said.

The services will cover Leh, Kargil, Padum, Lingshed, Dibling, Neyrak, Diskit, Turtuk, Srinagar, and Jammu to begin with, they said.

Uddhav Thackeray quits...

by majority of Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde, said.

Thackeray, who heads the Shiv Sena, appealed to Sena workers to allow the rebel legislators to return and not take to the streets in protest.

The rebels, earlier in the evening, left Guwahati where they were camping for over a week, and landed in Goa.

"Let the rebels who grew politically because of Shiv Sena and Balasaheb Thackeray get joy and satisfaction of pulling down his son from the post of chief minister," Uddhav Thackeray said.

"I don't want to get into the numbers' game. It would be shameful for me to see if even one of my own party colleagues stands against me," he said.

He said security has been tightened in Mumbai and Shiv Sainiks have been detained. Congress and NCP did not oppose his decision to rename Aurangabad as Sambhajinagar in the last cabinet meeting, held in the evening, Thackeray said. He also thanked Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar for their cooperation and support while running the MVA government.

"Congress leader Ashok Chavan told me that if the rebels want, Congress would get out of the government and extend outside support. Those who were expected to ditch me, stood by me while my own left me," he said.

Referring to the rebels, he said, "What were your problems? Instead of going to Surat and Guwahati, you could have come to me directly and expressed your views. " Shiv Sena is a party of common man and has faced several challenges successfully, Uddhav Thackeray said, adding he would rebuild the party.

"I thank Shiv Sainiks for standing by me. Those who grew politically because of Shiv Sena were disgruntled, while those who did not get anything were loyal," he said.

Earlier, vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala of the Supreme Court said it was "not staying the floor test as convened by the Governor" but "tomorrow's proceeding will depend on the final outcome of this petition." The Shiv Sena had challenged before the apex court Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's order to the Assembly secretary to schedule a floor test on Thursday morning.

'Karma': BJP leaders...

On the other hand, his son couldn't even control his party, despite being in power. What a fall from grace," BJP's IT department in-charge Amit Malviya tweeted.

Thackeray's announcement to step down as chief minister came minutes after the Supreme Court refused to stay the Maharashtra governor's direction to the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by the Sena chief to take a floor test in the assembly on Thursday.

The BJP is set to form the next government in the state with the support from Sena rebels led by Eknath Shinde and several independents who had earlier backed the government of Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance.

Election for Vice...

withdrawal of candidature is July 22.

The election will be held on August 6 and the votes counted on the same day.

Members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, including nominated members, form the electoral college for the vice presidential election.

Naidu's term as vice president ends on August 10.

The schedule for the vice presidential election was finalised at a meeting of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey.

GST Council withdraws ...

recommendations for rate rationalisation made by different groups appointed by it, resulting in tax changes, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters. The tax rate changes will come into effect from July 18.

However, the council decided to refer the report of the GoM (Group of Ministers) on casinos, online gaming and horse racing back to the panel of ministers for further deliberation.

The finance minister of Goa wanted further discussions on GST rate to be applicable on casinos and in that context both online gaming and horse racing too would be relooked. The panel had recommended 28 per cent GST levy on all three activities and equalled them to gambling.

The report is expected to be ready by july 15 and would be taken up by the council in its next meeting in August.

The ending of exemption would mean pre-packed and labelled meat (except frozen), fish, paneer, lassi, honey, dried leguminous vegetables, dried makhana, wheat and other cereals and puffed rice (muri) will now attract a 5 per cent tax.

Similarly, an 18 per cent GST will be levied on tetra packs, fees charged by banks for the issue of cheques (loose or in book form). Maps and charts including atlases will attract a 12 per cent levy. Goods that are unpacked, unlabelled and unbranded will continue to remain exempt from GST.

Besides, a 12 per cent tax will be levied on hotel rooms costing less than Rs 1,000 a day. At present, this falls under exempted category.

A 5 per cent GST will be levied on hospital room rent above Rs 5,000 per day(excluding ICU).

Tax rates have been raised to 18 per cent on products such as printing, writing or drawing ink; knives with cutting blades, paper knives and pencil sharpeners; LED lamps, drawing and marking out instruments.

Solar water heater will now attract 12 per cent GST as compared to 5 per cent earlier.

Some services such as work contracts for roads, bridges, railways, metro, effluent treatment plants and crematoriums too will see tax going up to 18 per cent from the current 12 per cent.

Tax has, however, been cut on the transport of goods and passengers by ropeways to 5 per cent and on ostomy appliances to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

Renting of truck, goods carriage where the cost of fuel is included will now attract a lower 12 per cent rate as against 18 per cent.

GST exemption on the transport of passengers by air to and from north-eastern states and Bagdogra has now been restricted to economy class.

Services rendered by regulators such as RBI, IRDA and SEBI will be taxed and so will be on renting of a residential dwelling to business entities.

Also, electric vehicles whether or not fitted with a battery pack, are eligible for the concessional GST rate of 5 per cent.

The GST council also decided to ease process for intra-state supplies made through e-commerce portals. Now such suppliers will not have to obtain GST registration, if their turnover is lower than Rs 40 lakh and Rs 20 lakh for goods and services, respectively. This would come into effect from january 1, 2023.

The council has also decided to constitute a group of ministers to address various concerns raised by the states in relation to constitution of the GST Appellate Tribunal and make recommendations for appropriate amendments in CGST Act.

The GoM on IT reforms, inter alia, recommended that the GSTN should put in place the AI/ML (Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning) based mechanism to verify the antecedents of the registration applicants and an improved risk-based monitoring of their behaviour post registration so that non-compliant tax payers could be identified in their infancy and appropriate action be taken so as to minimise risk to exchequer.

BDC Chairman starts blacktopping work of Tareli to Naran road

BDC Chairman Ghagwal starting road work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: BDC Chairman Ghagwal, Vijay Tagotra along with Sarpanch of Naran, Geetanjali Sharma on Wednesday started the blacktopping work of work on Naran Tareli road. On this occasion DDC member Rajpura Asha Rani, Sarpanch Jagmat Sharma, Senior BJP leader Rashpal Verma, social worker Raj Khajuria were also present.

DDC Chairman Vijay Tagotra said that in view of the strategic importance of the historical tourist destination, this route will prove to be very beneficial for the villages of Kandi area of Samba district. He told that every year thousands of people go to take bath in the historical Gangas of Tareli, but earlier there was only one way for Tareli which used to go through Rajpura. For the last 8 years efforts have been made by administration for connecting Tareli directly to the National highway and now it has been linked to Naran. This 3.5 Km long route will cost

BJP committed to serve people in every way: Sat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister Sat Sharma CA, along with Ex-MLA Ashwani Sharma and BJP Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, held weekly sitting at BJP Headquarter on Wednesday and heard grievances of the people.

A large number of people in deputations as well as single ones drawn from Jammu City, R.S. Pura, Bishnah, Ramban, Vijaypur, Akhnoor, Jourian and other parts had reached party office to meet their woes and seek help in resolving the same.

The deputations raised their issues related to different department like JAKFED, Education, PHE, PWD, Police, Social Welfare, National Health Mission, Sewerage etc.

Sat Sharma and Ashwani Sharma took up their problems with the respective heads of the departments and stressed upon them to take early and effective steps to provide relief to the people.

Sat Sharma, on this occasion, said that the BJP is committed to serve the people in every way. Our senior leaders are available on daily basis at Jammu and in other districts to meet the people. "We not only listen to the problems of the people but immediately take them up at the appropriate level for quick solution", Sat Sharma said and added that our doors are open for everyone, everyday.

Ashwani Sharma said that he himself attends to the people by holding public darbar in Bishnah daily besides sitting at party office once in a week. The heavy rush of the people at party office itself speaks that they have developed faith that only BJP can take due notice and resolve their grievances.

Online awareness lecture on Cyber Security organised at GDC Marh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Computer Applications and Cyber Jagrookta Cell, GDC Marh organized an online Awareness lecture on 'Cyber Security' on Wednesday.

The programme was held under the leadership of Principal Prof. Aekta Gupta.

She stressed that Cyber security awareness involves being mindful of cyber security in day-to-day situations.

Pranav Ratta, Resource person of today's programme briefed the students about what cyber threats are, the potential impact a cyber-attack will have on their business and the steps required to reduce risk and prevent cyber-crime infiltrating their online workspace.

Cyber security is very important because of some security threats and cyber-attacks. He also gave some current examples of fraud, laundering occurred through cyber space and necessary safe guard measures for the same. A number of students from different semesters participated in this online lecture. The programme was organised by Prof. Shallu Gupta (Coordinator, CJ Cell) who gave the welcome address and coordinated by Dr. Shakun Sharma (Member, CJ Cell),delivered formal vote of thanks. Prof. Ramdayal, Prof. Ashu Jolly, Prof. Anjana Chib and others were also present.

Fortify against COVID, take vaccine's booster dose: Sham Langer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sham Lal Langer, Convener, Trade and Industries Cell, BJP J&K, made a fervent appeal to people to strengthen their immunities by administering Covid vaccine's booster doses as the danger of disease still persists with maximum risk to those having co-morbidities.

In a statement issued to media persons here today, the BJP leader said that there is no point in losing anymore life when there is an effective antidote in approach. He said that fresh cases of the coronavirus are showing a surge in the country as well as in J&K therefore the need of the time is to act wisely to defeat this ruthless infection that has caused much harm to humanity across the world.

Sham Langer said that besides hand hygiene and social distancing, vaccination is the only panacea available for keeping at bay the coronavirus and its different variants therefore going for booster doses is a good option and people should take the placebo on priority.

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advice on his monthly programme Mann Ki Baat, Langer said that by remaining reluctant against taking the vaccine doses people will undo the endeavour which the government has accomplished by ensuring vaccines to all the people of the country in such a short span of time. He said that already the number of cumulative vaccination is about to reach 200 crore and therefore people should not act as spoilsport by refusing to take the booster doses as it is vital for stopping the infection from getting viral once again.