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LG visits Chandanwari...

the officials to create a strong healthcare and health emergency infrastructure with additional teams of doctors and nursing staff. He further asked them to harness the benefits of technology to deal with any emergent situation.

Proper arrangements for regular ambulance, Heli-ambulance service and oxygen cylinders must be ensured, the Lt Governor told the officials.

He also took stock of the arrangements being made for drinking water and sanitation and facilities for sanitation workers deployed to ensure cleanliness at the Base Camps.

The Lt Governor passed explicit directions for the Camp in-charge and concerned officials for operationalization of Sheshnag and Panjtarni camp by 20th June.

It must be ensured that the Track is through for ponies, Pithoos from Chandanwari to holy cave well before the commencement of the Yatra, he said.

The Lt Governor set the deadline of 20th June for the completion of various works including snow clearance at MG Top, Panjtarni and other such areas; completion of emergency landing platform at holy cave; boundary walls, safety railing on vulnerable stretches; water supply and installation of RO in every camp.

Power supply and illumination in every camp should be done by June 17th. Health facilities and availability of health equipment should be ensured. SoP by the Health Department to be made operational at each camp, the Lt Governor told the officials.

The Lt Governor directed the KPDCL and Jal Shakti department for engaging skilled manpower and day-to-day monitoring of water and power logistics.

The Lt Governor emphasized on involvement of members of the PRIs and Civil society in successful conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

We must learn from the challenges of last year and take comprehensive measures accordingly. All the concerned departments, CAPFs, J&K Police, Army and other stakeholders should work in close coordination for making best arrangements to ensure smooth pilgrimage. A feedback on tracks from civil administration, Security forces should also be taken, he added.

Work on the Steel girder bridges will be completed well before the commencement of the Yatra, it was informed.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to lay special focus on Sanitation, Quality of tents, fire extinguishers and ensure adequate gaps during installation of tents. No unauthorised tent should be installed. Strict enforcement of SOPs and guidelines must be ensured near holy cave, he added.

The Lt Governor directed the Irrigation and Flood Control department to complete the Nallah works by June 25th

Instructions were also passed pertaining to installation of LED at various locations with pre-recorded messages and information dissemination, upgradation of Signages and information boards, besides ensuring strong telecom and mobile connectivity.

Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Tourism Department; Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, senior officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Civil Administration, Police, CAPFs and Army also attended the meeting.

No alternative to...

threatened with a shutdown and raids on its employees unless it complied with government orders to restrict certain accounts on the platform during the farmers' protest in 2020 and 2021.

The minister also hailed the decision to remove Article 370, saying there was tremendous development taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and urged critics of the move to visit the region and witness the 'positive changes' firsthand.

"Traders are happy. Boatmen are happy. Hotels are full to capacity. People are not getting hotels in wake of pre-booking. There is peace", he said.

"Children are aspiring to become doctors and engineers. There is competition among them for achieving higher goals. There is peace and progress now," the minister said.

Following the revocation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has been firmly integrated into the national mainstream, and the region is experiencing the benefits of democracy and development, he said.

Amit Shah to..

government. J&K BJP's general secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul said Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan has witnessed massive response from the public and has been a boost for the morale of party workers at the grassroots. People in large numbers should reach the rally venue, Koul added.

2 terrorists gunned...

ammunition including 02 AK 47 rifles, 04 AK Magazines, 48 AK rounds, 04 grenades & other incriminating materials have been recovered from the site of encounter.

ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar has congratulated the joint team for carrying out the successful operation without any collateral damage, thereby eliminating two terrorists. In his message, ADGP Kashmir said that the successful neutralization of the terrorists in the Machil sector sends a strong message to those who attempt to infiltrate and disrupt peace along the LoC. Police and security forces are fully capable and resolute in defending the sovereignty of the nation and protecting its citizens. Earlier in the last month, two terrorists were also killed who were trying to infiltrate to our side.

In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

Compulsory retirement cannot...

extraneous consideration. Therefore, we do not see any reason to interfere with the judgment of learned Single Judge. Thus, the practice followed by the Government in directing compulsory retirement of writ petitioner pursuant to registration of FIRNo.02/2012 was completely unwarranted. Viewed thus, the Division Bench not inclined to take a view other than the one taken by the Single Judge. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed along with connected CM(s), if any, upholding the judgment and order of learned Single Judge.

CUET 2023: Students...

has taken strenuous efforts for implementation of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for the academic session 2023, following the guidelines outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and Government's commitment to inclusivity. A total of 87309 (Eighty-seven thousand three hundred nine) unique candidates have been registered from the UT of Jammu and Kashmir for the CUET (UG) 2023. The examination centres were randomly allocated based on availability of requisite infrastructure within the geographical boundaries of J&K and the exam dates were announced by the National Testing Agency. However, some students were allotted centres outside the UT of J&K.

Taking cognizance of the peculiar situation and resentment against the same at the time of scheduled G-20 event in Kashmir after the intervention of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, NTA deferred the CUET (UG) examination for the students of J&K and implemented a centre reallocation process exclusively for J&K students and issued new dates for conducting the examination. Further, in order to save the travel and logistical challenges faced by students while appearing for CUET (UG) 2023 in the examination centres located outside the UT of J&K, the department augmented the requisite infrastructure in the shortest possible time. After a thorough examination, it has come to the notice of the department that some students from Jammu division, after reallocation of centres were still allotted centres outside the UT of J&K and had discrepancies in the examination dates in certain subject combinations.

Allaying the fears of the students community in this regard, Principal Secretary HED assured that sufficient opportunity would be given to such candidates for admission in the undergraduate programmes in various Degree Colleges of the UT based on their merit in the 12th class examination.

5.4 magnitude quake...

developed cracks due to the tremors.

The false ceiling of a ward of the sub-district hospital collapsed.

Some of the debris fell on patients recuperating in the hospital ward, an official said.

The patients have been moved to safety and are being treated in an emergency ward of the hospital, he said.

Azim Malik, a resident of Ghata Bhaderwah, said his house was damaged due to the tremors.

"It was a strong earthquake and cracks have developed in my house," Malik told PTI.

Panic-stricken schoolchildren gathered in fields in the Bhaderwah valley and teachers were seen consoling a few of them who were sobbing.

Officials in Doda said they are assessing the damage caused by the earthquake.

Tremors were also felt in Chamba in Himachal Pradesh, about 150 km from Doda.

"Things in my kitchen were shaking due to the tremors," said Nandini, a resident

of Shimla.

The earthquake was also felt in parts of Punjab and Haryana but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage to property.

"The tremors were mild and I felt them while I was sitting on a chair," said Baldev Chand, a resident of Chandigarh.

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan and SSP Abdul Qayoom visited Sub District Bhaderwah and Parts of district HQ at Doda to assess the damages caused due to the earthquake that shook the area today.

It was informed that there were no reports of loss of life from any part of the district. However, some houses/ buildings have developed cracks due to heavy jolt of the earthquake.

Some partial/ minor damages have been noticed in some government and Private buildings in the Tehsil. Some minor cracks were also reported in government and private buildings from Gandoh, Thathri and other areas .

All the ADCs, SDMs, Tehsildars, and Police officers are on high alert and are in continuous touch with public,

PRIs, Lumbardars and Chowkidars, are assessing the situation and reporting to the higher authorities.

The DC has urged the public not to panic and stay vigilant and report to the concerned ADC, SDM, Tehsildar or Control room of DC office in case of any eventual-ity.

Azad urges Govt ...

accommodation," he said. Azad said that the government must assess the damage and compensate the losses to the affected people. However, Azad also urged his party workers to reach out to all those affected people and provide all the possible support to the affected families. "I share the sufferings of all the people who suffered in this devastating earthquake. Me and my party stands by all of you," he said.

SIU presents chargesheet...

Muzffar Sofi, resident of Batgund Tral and Umar Nabi Teli, son of Gh Nabi Teli, resident of Ladhoo Pampore.

Private sector supplementing...

student from Kashmir Harvard School attending the fair said, "We got the opportunity to receive guidance from various higher education institutions in every field. In addition to engineering and medicine, there is vast scope for higher learning in varied fields. More such events should be held here." Zainab Tariq, another student, too, said she benefitted a lot by participating in the fair.

"After completing school, students usually get confused about the career choices available. This fair was of great help as we were told about different courses and universities," she said.

Our vision is...

services were aimed at rooting out corruption and bringing government at the doorsteps of people. He noted that an objective assessment on ground should be made to gauge its real impact on ground.

The Chief Secretary also stressed on constitution of 2-tier review committees headed by Administrative Secretary, IT and other high ranking officers for monitoring the breach in timelines in delivery of services as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). He asked them to put to notice the officers/officials found violating the timelines set under this Act for different services. He asked for making it a feature to assess the performance of officers annually.

Dr Mehta also asked for launching a massive campaign to sensitize people about the benefits of online services. He reiterated that the campaign like 'Say Yes to Digital; No to Bribe' would encourage people to seek their rights more forcefully. He told them to start seeking the feedback of applicants about services they availed through IVRS and other interactive methods so that their point of view regarding the depth and quality of services is known.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress made in rolling out of IT initiatives like 'Mobile Dost' App, Digital Surveillance for monitoring violations of building permissions, Digital DPRs/estimation of works, online Parivar Pehchaan Patra, use of Artificial Intelligence in assessment of official processes and performance of employees besides rolling out of much anticipated 'IT Vision-2047'.

Dr Mehta said that the time has come to assess overall preparations vis-à-vis future readiness of J&K. He observed that the technology holds the key to create J&K happier and progressive in the times ahead.

Providing the details the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Purna Puri informed the meeting that out of 303 services guaranteed under PSGA, J&K has already integrated 103 services with the Auto-appeal system. She also gave out that the additional 122 services would be integrated with this auto-escalation mechanism in the days to come. She further said that the remaining services would be taken on-board over this platform before end of the month.

She also apprised the meeting that besides the RAS the Department is soon going to offer people to give their valuable feedback through IVRS. She also revealed that the auto-appeal system would be having a dedicated dashboard to give insight about the status of timely delivery of services.

It was given out that the 'Mobile Dost' App, a reliable mobile friendly version of all the online services with additional features like services related to Tourism, travel, jobs, weather news updates etc would be launched by the end of this month so that people of J&K are able to carry government offices in their pockets in real sense.

Time has come...

of women in peacekeeping operations, emphasising that their unique contribution during missions in conflict-affected areas must be recognised.

The first UN peacekeeping mission, 'UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)' began operations in Palestine on May 29, 1948.

The defence minister said, "While we commemorate the past, we must also look towards the future".

It is also important to look at the entire UN ecosystem and what can be done to improve it, he said.

"One important reform that stares us in our faces is to make UN decision-making bodies, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), more reflective of demographic realities of the world," the defence minister said.

The UNSC currently has five permanent members -- China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US -- and 10 elected non-permanent members who serve two-year terms. India completed its tenure as a non-permanent member of the Council in December last year. Only a permanent member has the power to veto any substantive resolution.

"When India, the most populous nation of the world, does not find a seat as a permanent member of the UNSC, it tends to undermine the moral legitimacy of the UN. Therefore, the time has come for making the UN bodies more democratic and representative of the current realities of our age," Singh added.

Later, the Defence Ministry issued a statement saying India has a rich legacy of contribution to UN Peacekeeping operations.

"Time has come to expand the UN Security Council with India as a permanent member," the defence minister was quoted as saying in the statement.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj in April had said that India is right in demanding a "major course correction" of the UNSC when the world's largest democracy is kept out of the global decision making.

India has been at the forefront of the years-long efforts to reform the Security Council, saying it rightly deserved a place as a permanent member of the United Nations.

In his address, Singh expressed gratitude to all Indians who have served or are currently serving as UN peacekeepers under the blue flag.

India is one of the largest contributors of troops in UN Peacekeeping. It has contributed approximately 2.75 lakh troops to peacekeeping missions so far, with around 5,900 troops currently deployed in 12 UN missions, the statement said.

Singh commended the role of UN peacekeeping operations and explained the enthusiastic global support for such missions through the economic concept of "externalities".

"When there is a conflict, it is harmful to the directly involved actors. Moreover, it has negative externalities for those involved indirectly. There is a plethora of negative externalities that have emanated out of the recent Russia-Ukraine conflict. It has led to food crisis in various African and Asian countries and has fuelled an energy crisis in the world," he said.

A conflict at a particular place or region creates "ripple effects" which adversely impact the whole world. So, the rest of the world becomes a stakeholder in resolving the conflict and to restore peace, Singh added.

"This is because peace has positive externality. When conflicting parties restore peace, they benefit in terms of human lives saved, higher economic growth achieved, etc. The rest of the world also benefits as peace fosters stability and encourages economic growth," the defence minister said.

Singh added that "positive externality of peace and negative externality of war drives the UN, along with the responsible nations, to act towards resolving any conflict" and this action is manifested in terms of deployment of UN peacekeeping missions in conflict zones.

"Our courageous soldiers, police personnel and civilian experts have demonstrated exceptional dedication and unwavering commitment to the cause of peace," he said.

"They have selflessly served in some of the most challenging and dangerous environments, embodying the spirit of peacekeeping and upholding the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Their unwavering commitment, professionalism and sacrifices inspire us all," he said.

Singh extended his condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones in the line of duty. He called for honouring the sacrifices of the peacekeepers by building a more just, peaceful and inclusive world.

"Let us renew our commitment to promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among and within the nations. Together, we can build a future where every individual can live in peace, harmony and with dignity," he added.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande, several senior officials of the Army, and defence attaches from various embassies here were also present on the occasion.

In his opening remarks, Gen Pande highlighted India's contribution to the cause of UN Peacekeeping.

The Army chief said that India has close to 5,900 peacekeepers serving around the world on various peacekeeping operations, including female engagement teams in UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in Congo and UN Interim Security Force for Abyei, besides women staff officers and military observers.

He also underlined the vitality of the UN Peacekeeping amid the new and complex security challenges which continue to emerge and the readiness of the Indian Army to fulfil the country's responsibility and commitment to the UN, in close partnership with fellow states.

The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed on May 29 every year to honour the professionalism, dedication and courage of those serving in UN Peacekeeping operations and remember those who have laid down their lives for the cause of peace.

NIA attaches properties...

association with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and used to collect funds for unlawful and violent activities, it said, adding he was also actively involved in activities aimed at secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India.

The case, filed suo moto by the NIA in May 2017, relates to terrorist and secessionist activities being carried out by ISI-backed proscribed terrorist organisations in Jammu and Kashmir.

These banned outfits, including Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), were using the APHC as a front for their activities, the NIA said.

They were spreading terror and perpetrating violence in the Kashmir Valley by promoting and conducting attacks on civilians and security forces, it said.

The agency has so far filed chargesheets against 17 persons, including Hafeez Saeed, the "Amir" of Jamaat-ud-Dawah and LeT and a UN listed terrorist, as well as Mohammad Yusuf Shah alais Syed Salahuddin, the Chief of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

The NIA on Monday said 17 properties belonging to "financier of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir" Watali in the Handwara area of Kupwara district were attached on the orders of Special NIA Court, Patiala House, under section 33(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

2 cops injured..

complaint about illegal mining in the Kukdiyal area, a mining department team assisted by police rushed to the spot. When the police personnel tried to seize the machinery, a large number of people close to the illegal miners came to the spot and attacked them, the police said.

Two policemen suffered minor injuries in the attack. Additional police force was rushed to the spot and one person was arrested. The machines used by the illegal miners were seized, they said.

A case has been registered in the matter and a hunt is on to arrest the remaining accused, they said.

Youth should come...

to the voluntary blood donors for their self-less service and saving precious lives. On this day, let us rededicate ourselves to help those needing blood and create awareness about safe blood, blood products and the importance of regular donation.

"The slogan for World Blood Donor Day, this year, is - Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share Often. There is a need to create mass awareness and encourage more people, especially the youth to come forward and voluntarily donate blood to save lives," the Lt Governor said.

HC rejects bail of wife in murder case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court rejected the bail of Nano Devi who killed her husband Sohan Lal.

The case set up by the prosecution is that on 16.06.2021 Police Station Bani received an information/written complaint from one Sanjay Kumar S/O Gian Chand R/O Bani with regard to the missing of his brother Sohan Lal since 01.06.2021 and that he had specific information from one Radha Krishna with one Kewal Kumar (one of the accused) killed his brother. During the course of investigation, police arrested the said Kewal Kumar and upon his confession before police arrested other accused namely, Ramesh Chander, Nano Devi (applicant) and Kamlesh Singh alleged to have hatched a conspiracy for killing deceased Sohan Lal, husband of the applicant. It was further alleged in the prosecution story that applicant Nano Devi was having illicit relationship with accused Ramesh Chander, which came to the notice of the deceased Sohan Lal. As such, applicant Nano Devi and accused Ramesh Chander planned the murder of deceased Sohan Lal in connivance with other accused Kamlesh Singh and Kewal Kumar. It is the case of the prosecution that applicant Nano Devi and Ramesh Chander, due to their illicit relationship, executed their plan by providing poison to accused Kamlesh Singh and Kewal Kumar, who administered the same to the deceased by mixing in alcohol and when deceased became unconscious, they tied his body and threw into a gorge.

Justice MA Chowdhary after hearing Adv Tarun Sharma for the applicant whereas Deputy AG Devakar Sharma for the UT, observed that It is not a case where the murder would have been committed at the spur of the moment, rather the applicant/accused has been alleged to have planned the execution of murder with three other persons to eliminate her husband, just to keep her relations with her paramour who is also one of the accused. The story as projected by the prosecution is that on having a plan for murder of the deceased, the accused administered him poison through alcohol and then threw him into a gorge to ensure that he is killed. Therefore, it seems to be a cold blooded murder under a well thought plan and the kingpin of this plan is the wife of the deceased i.e. applicant herein. Since the case is based on circumstantial evidence, it will not be safe to admit the application to bail as she may tamper with the prosecution evidence and it would be difficult for the prosecution to get the links of the circumstantial evidence to prove the case against any of the accused, if the prosecution witnesses, are either way get influenced by any means. Since many of the witnesses of the prosecution are witnesses to the circumstances and until they are examined, it will not be safe to admit the applicant to bail. The prosecution witnesses who are shown as circumstantial evidence, in the considered opinion of this court, are required to be examined before the plea of the applicant is considered again by the Trial Court. Having regard to the aforesaid discussion and reasons, this application is found without merit and substance and is liable to be rejected at this stage. The application is, therefore, dismissed.

Religious, political leaders in Kashmir object to '72 Hoorain'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Deerying the negative portrayal of Muslims in the upcoming film "72 Hoorain", slated to be released next month, prominent religious and political leaders in Kashmir on Tuesday said the movie "hurts the sentiments" of the community.

Directed by Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan and co-produced by Ashoke Pandit, the film will be released in Indian theatres on July 7. It features Pavan Malhotra and Aamir Bashir in the lead.

"It is totally controversial and hurts the sentiments of the people, especially Muslims. We are not going to accept this title. Even this film needs to be banned and those who are producing these types of films should understand that such movies are against amity and brotherhood between the communities," Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir Nasir ul Islam told PTI.

Islam said he will convene a meeting on this "very sensitive issue".

"We don't want this controversy to spread and we are going to take up this matter with the government of India. All Muslim organisations will be taken in confidence on this matter.

Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Darakshan Andrabi, a BJP leader, said the movies are works of fiction aimed at minting money.

"Life is not about films and writers, it is their way of doing their work and making money out of it.... In order to make things viral, the filmmakers make things in such a way," Andrabi said.

She said such films "would not affect our lives or our country. In order to understand the context of the film completely first we need to watch the film."

Ashok Kaul, BJP general secretary, said naming the film as '72 Hoorain' should not hurt the sentiments of people.

"I believe whatever is happening should not happen and exaggerating this thing should not be encouraged as well," he added.

