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Development happening at...

month to ensure its development." He also said after the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is also witnessing massive development in all sectors. Puri said this was his sixth visit to Jammu and Kashmir in the past couple of years and "we are witness to massive foothall of tourists, setting up of IIIM, AIIMS, hospitals and other educational institutions". "I feel some works are pending due to some obstacles but they are being taken care of to further speed up the development," he said. Puri said the Devika river project, costing Rs 190 crore, will be completed within the next three months. "This is North India's first river rejuvenation project which will offer a unique destination both for pilgrims and tourists," he said.

22 DySPs transferred...

DySP Hqrs Baramulla; Pardeep Singh Sen, DySP Hqrs Ramban as DySP PHQ; Intiyaz Ahmad Mir, DySP PC/SDPO Pampore as SDPO Khanyar; Bashir Ahmad, DySP IR-20th Bn as SDPO Railway Srinagar; Raizan Ali, DySP PC Srinagar as DySP PC Dooru; Rohit Kumar, DySP PC Srinagar as SDPO Vijaypur; Himayun Muzzammil, DySP PC/CIO Srinagar as SDPO Kokernag; Ishan Gupta, DySP PC Dooru as DySP Hqrs Kishtwar; Surrinder Khadyar, DySP JKAP-7th Bn as SDPO Billawar; Narinder Singh, DySP DSB Jammu as DySP IR-16th Bn; Pankaj Sharma, DySP R-1st Bn as DySP JKAP-8th Bn; Shankar Bahadur, DySP IR-11th Bn as DySP SKPAU; Arjan Chib, DySP JKAP-4th Bn as DySP DSB Jammu; Neeraj Sharma, DySP CID C I Ramban as DySP PHQ; Omparkash, awaiting adjustment, as DySP Hqrs Ramban; and Ravinder Pal Singh, awaiting adjustment, has been posted as DySP Traffic City Srinagar. "SDPO Pattan in addition to his own duties shall lookafter the work of DySP PC Pattan till further orders," it added.

Pakistani agencies trying...

birds in the Poonch-Rajouri area in which dreaded terrorists from Pakistan came in and they targeted ordinary people and some security personnel at some places as well. Operations are going on to track them and foil such conspiracies," the DGP said.

On the operations in Poonch and Kupwara on Friday, Singh said two infiltration attempts were foiled.

"Yesterday, two infiltration attempts took place in Poonch and the Jumagund area in Kupwara where infiltrators from Pakistan tried to come in. In Poonch, they did not get a chance to enter and their attempt was foiled and they were forced to retreat under the cover of foliage. We recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition, which the terrorists had brought along. In Kupwara, five terrorists, who had come from Pakistan, were killed," he said.

The DGP said youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir have seen through the evil designs of the enemy and chosen the path of peace and development.

"I also congratulate the youth of Kashmir and Jammu. They have finally seen through the evil designs of our adversary and have chosen peace over death and destruction. There are hardly any people joining terrorist ranks," he said.

On the Amarnath Yatra, Singh said all arrangements have been made for the pilgrimage which is scheduled to begin from July 1.

"On behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we welcome the yatris. Like every year, security arrangements and other logistics by the civil administration are being put in place. I hope the arrival of yatris will even further improve the atmosphere of festivities created by tourist arrivals. We will try our best that pilgrims go back with good memories from here," he said.

Earlier, the DGP declared open a 3-day Water Sports festival 'Jashan-e-Dal 2023' on Saturday at a function held at SKICC Back Lawn, this afternoon. The event is being organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police under its Civic Action Programme.

Spl. DsG R. R. Swain, A. K. Choudhary, ADsGP S. J. M Gillani, M.K Sinha, Sunil Kumar, IGP B S Tuti, DsIG Sujit Kumar, Vivek Gupta, Shahid Mehraj, Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, Abdul Qayoom and Javid Iqbal Matoo, JK Water Sports Kayaking and Canoeing Association, Tariq Ahmad Ghani Vice President, Dr Burhan Bazaz president Rowing Association J&K and other members, Dr. Bilkis Mir and other senior police and civil officers, SSsP of different wings, AIsG of PHQ, Commandants of different battalions were present on the occasion.

ADGP Armed J&K S. J. M. Geelani said that during the 3 day event of Jashn-e-dal over 600 water sports athletes will participate in 20 different events.

Sadhus from across...

and are upbeat to offer their prayers at the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, housing the naturally formed ice-Shivling.

The 62-day long pilgrimage will commence on July 1 from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in the Ganderbal district.

The first batch of pilgrims, including a group of Sadhus, is leaving for the Yatra from Jammu on June 30.

"I am performing the Yatra for the first time and waiting eagerly to reach Kashmir, the name of which fills our chest with pride as Kashmir to Kanyakumari is India," a 58-year-old sadhu from Andhra Pradesh, Vasudevanand Sarawari, told PTT.

The sadhu reached the Ram Temple after conducting Char Dham', a pilgrimage of four holy places -- Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath -- by foot.

"I am thankful to my Lord for giving me an opportunity to seek his blessings by joining the Amarnath pilgrimage this year. One should perform the Yatra at least once in the lifetime," he said amid chants of "Bham Bham Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev" from his fellow sadhus, staying in small groups inside a large hall at the temple complex, in praise of Lord Shiva.

Authorities have beefed up security across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Yatra from Lakhnapur the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab to the cave shrine including various base camps enroute for a peaceful pilgrimage.

"I am satisfied with all the arrangements. I paid my obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine after reaching here some days back. Jammu and Kashmir is an abode of holy places and we, in Andhra Pradesh, have high esteem for the region," he said.

Purnima, a resident of Assam, said she has been religiously visiting the cave shrine every year for over the past 13 years, barring one year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When I was seven-year-old, I was not able to speak or walk and my mother took a pledge to undertake Amarnath Yatra till I am cured. She used to take me to the shrine on her back and after 10 years of pilgrimage, I regained the strength to walk and speak as well," she said, expressing her excitement to embark on the Yatra once again.

Kanchan Chohan, a Sadhvi from Indore, said she had renounced the worldly life and is looking for peace. "This is my first yatra and I will come again and again till my last breath."

Radey Sham Maharaj, the priest at the temple said, so far 207 Sadhus and Sadhvis have reached the Ram Temple for the Yatra.

"Like yesteryears, all arrangements for the devotees for their lodging and boarding at the temple have the capacity to accommodate over 2,000 Sadhus," he said.

Self-reliance not...

"From the ground to the sky and from the agricultural machines to the cryogenic engine, India is moving fast to become self-reliant in every sector," he said.

"In the fast changing world, self-reliance is not an option for us, but it is a necessity," he said, adding that the government is ensuring the country's self-reliance in every sector, especially defence as it is directly related to the nation's security.

Highlighting the importance of the army, the minister said, "For the safety of any country, the army is the most important part. Without an empowered army, you cannot defend the borders, nor civilisation or culture. If that army is dependent on anyone else, then the situation becomes more uncontrolled."

Hence, self-reliance of an army is an important step in making a country powerful, he asserted.

"When I am talking about self-reliance of the army, it does not only mean soldiers, it also means military equipment," the minister said and added that "as time changes, the role of military equipment increases".

He said today, there is a new warrior and it is called technology, and "we have to think forward".

"We have to go beyond the horizon and achieve self-reliance in the area of military equipment. The platforms, equipment and new technologies are equally important as the courage and valour of our soldiers," he said.

On the importance of being self-reliant in military equipment, Singh said, when the British were expanding their control in India, "it was not that kingdoms did not have an army". "Some had a large and loyal army, but they lost to the British despite this because of equipment," he said.

Kingdoms in India made efforts and imported weapons from France, Germany and Spain "but since the equipment was imported, proper training and engineering was needed for (handling) them", Singh said.

Had they developed weapons according to their capacity, they could have better

handled them and imparted proper training to their soldiers, he said. This is why they faced defeat, Singh said.

The defence minister said imported equipment have limits and sometimes "a situation may arise that in adverse circumstances you want to use it (equipment), and the other country using a system can block it".

Singh also said can this possibility be denied that platforms or equipment with chips can inform the enemy and leak sensitive information.

"Imported weapons come with some conditions that are not appropriate for a sovereign nation. So, to safeguard the country's sovereignty, if we need equipment or platforms with the most advanced technology, then we have to develop it in our country only. For this, (we) cannot remain dependent on any other country...", he said.

It becomes necessary for a country like India to become self-reliant because "along with dual dangers on our borders, we are also facing new dimensions of warfare", the minister said.

"Can there be any country in the world that does not have a military industrial base and it is a global power? There is no such country... If we have to stand at a good position at the global level, then apart from becoming self-reliant in the defence manufacturing sector, we do not have any other option," Singh said.

He said that if "we become self-reliant in the defence manufacturing sector, it will have multiple benefits".

India's armed forces will become self-reliant and expenses incurred on imports will reduce, Singh said. If weapons are manufactured in the country, it also "multi-dimensionally" benefits the civil sector, he highlighted.

The minister called for developing dual use technology -- strengthening the defence sector as well as improving lives of people.

"We along with the DRDO, academia and industries have made efforts to make India self-reliant in the defence sector, and the results of our efforts have started to come. It is a matter of happiness that our domestic defence production today has crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore-mark," he said.

Talking on self-reliance, he also said it is inappropriate for "any society, empire or a country" to remain dependent on others. Citing the fall of the Roman Empire, he said it recruiting foreigners to fill military ranks led to internal conflict which slowly weakened the empire.

First batch of...

the Regimental song and the national anthem with the Agniveers dedicating themselves with resolve to serve the nation.

"The Agniveers commenced their rigorous training on January 01, 2023. Their training of 24 weeks has enhanced their physical fitness and endurance, sharpened their senses, made them mentally robust and taught them the skills of a soldier necessary to achieve victory in battle," he said.

"The training also focused on building their character, imbibing regimental traditions, military history and ethos, camaraderie and above all an unrelenting spirit," the spokesperson said.

The Agniveers will undergo another seven weeks of intense training before they join their units located across the country, he said.

In addition to military training, the Agniveers received instructions on varied subjects, which empower them to be responsible and contributing citizens of the nation, the spokesperson said.

"They embody teamwork, leadership, and dynamism. Their discipline, vibrance, dedication and determination to persevere against all odds is the spirit of a confident generation which will carry the nation in the 21st century," he said.

"The Agniveers have chosen a path, a way of life which is demanding, yet extraordinary and glorious and today they realised their dreams against all odds thus, setting an example for the youth of our nation in general and Kashmir in particular and will save as role models for the future Agniveers," the spokesperson said.

River Front, Srinagar...

Center, GhantaGhar, Srinagar Plaza,Nishat Garden precinct, Northern Foreshore Road, and Shalimar Canal.

Dr. Mehta observed that the developed Jhelum Riverfront together with Srinagar Plaza near GhantaGhar are going to become major attractions in the city. He directed the concerned officers to further accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of all these projects at the earliest.

Reviewing the progress of Dal Lake cleaning at Nishat, the Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the cleanliness of the water body. He said that the water body looks much better than earlier, but also emphasized on greater efforts for even better outcome. He directed the VC, LC&MA to expedite the Houseboat sewerage connections and shift their focus towards the cleanliness of interiors of the lake also. He also directed them to start water sports activities in the Dal for adding charm to the lake and creating livelihoods.

Dr Mehta observed that the city is fast changing for better with the brisk pace of completion of smart city projects. He added that these ongoing works would further give a massive facelift to the city thereby enhancing its appeal for all the residents and tourists.

On visit to Dal Lake, Dr Mehta inspected the work of lake front development along Northern Foreshore Road of the Lake from Nishat to NaseemBagh including pedestrian walkway. The development also has components of cycle track construction & viewing decks.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the need for connecting all the houseboats with the STTs. He directed for utilizing the 36 MLD capacity of Sewage Treatment optimally and connect all the 900 houseboats in the lake with the Sewage lines forthwith.

The Chief Secretary also examined the works for upgradation and redevelopment of NishatBagh precinct including allied road works, pathways, plaza, wooden deck and landscaping of its surroundings including that of the development of Shalimar canal.

The Chief Secretary was informed that the development of the footpath including its finishing, cycle tracks, green spaces, landscaping and undergrounding of electrical cables etc is the part of the project at Foreshore Road. The project is to be completed at a cost of Rs 32.50 Cr.

The Chief Secretary was assured by the executing agencies that they are committed to complete all these projects at the earliest. They apprised him that they would enhance the pace of work on each site. They further said that they shall work day in and day out for meeting all the deadlines set by him during the visit.

On the occasion he was apprised that out 137 SSCL works, 66 stands completed and the work is going on more 77 projects. These projects will not only upgrade infrastructure only but would also improve quality of life of the citizens.

Module forging driving...

with alleged irregularities in the grant of 2.78 lakh arms licences in 22 districts during 2012-16.

The officials said the Army's Southern Command Military Intelligence busted the driving licence scam, leading to the arrest of Santosh Singh, who was employed with the Indian Navy from 1991 to 2012, and Dhaval Rawat, an RTO agent in Gandhinagar who used to provide driving licences to individuals of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of fake certificates of security forces.

The accused, who were apprehended on Friday, revealed that they have supplied more than 1,000 driving licences to their handlers, the officials said, adding they used to work on the behest of Ishfaq, Waseem and Nassar Mir, who are based in Uri, where they reportedly run a driving school.

The officials said the accused also revealed that they earned more than Rs 50 lakh this year alone, though they were active for nearly four years.

"Obtaining a driving licence on fake documents belonging to security agencies is a matter of grave concern as these driving licences can further be used for obtaining other official documents like passports by inimical persons. The module could also have been exploited to make fake driving licences of illegal Bangladeshi migrants," an official privy to the probe said.

He said Singh, originally from Madhya Pradesh, started making driving licences for soldiers of various battalions of the security forces in Gandhinagar.

During this time, he was contacted by the three Jammu and Kashmir residents and some others and was asked to forge driving licences using details of jawans and security forces battalions, the official said.

"Singh has been making licences for security forces for the past several years and knows very well what documents are required. His contacts in Jammu and Kashmir used to send the Aadhaar card and the photo of the person whose driving licence is to be made," he said. The official added that Singh ordered a coin-making machine online to forge coins for various battalions.

Rawat worked with Singh for two years and knew how he was making fake driving licences, he said.

In order to avoid having to appear in person for document verification and live photo taking, applicants used to get driving licences by paying middlemen at the RTO office, the official said, adding the licences were delivered to Ayan Umar, who forged RTO 'No-Objection' certificates to change the addresses to Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad chairs Distt...

Union Territory and interact with our people who are fed up with the present political system," Azad told the office bearers in Anantnag while chairing a meeting to

review the ongoing party activities in the district.

He said it is the responsibility of every worker and office bearer of DPAP to make common people understand of our agenda and convince them to be part of change for the future and betterment of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Change comes when you change the mindset of people and make them understand what DPAP stands for. How it is a different political party and challenges the status quo with new hopes and promises on ground. So, every single person of the UT is important for us and have to come forward to become part of this caravan," Azad said.

He said his party is pro poor and pro people and it will fight for all those who face the onslaught to their basic rights. He said DPAP is the guardian of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their political and economic rights.

"Our fight is long and decisive and it needs motivation and ideological endorsement from the people."

He was, however, satisfied with the working of party workers and office bearers and appreciated them for taking on contentious public issues like forcible land eviction, curtailment in ration quota, Job aspirants, Property tax, electricity and many others.

"This is how you have to work in future and compel the government to listen to the poor and ensure no one is bereft of his or her rights. Empowering people is our basic and main service as a political organization," Azad added.

He said he won't forget how our rights were snatched away and his party will continue to fight for the statehood, land and job rights. He said when he was in the parliament, he fought valiantly against the August 5 decision and opposed the UT status to J&K.

Azad promised that if his party is in power after elections in Jammu and Kashmir, he will restart his developmental model in triple shifts and within a few years the UT shall emerge as a hot destination for world class tourism.

"God has gifted us everything. But it needs vision and versatility to explore. I have that handy. If we are back in power, I will get an opportunity to execute my ideas of uplifting Jammu and Kashmir as an international destination," he said.

Among others who were present on the occasion were Taj Mohiuddin Ex Minister & Treasurer, G.M.Saroori Ex Minister & Vice Chairman, Ch Haroon Khatana Gen Secretary, Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, Gulzar Ahmed Wani Zonal President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Mohd Yousef Gorski Chairman DDC, Mir Zameer Distt President, Adv Saleem Parray DDC, Sajida Begum DDC, Mir Altaf Gen Secretary Province, Anwar Phambra, Ab Rashid Bhatt Working President and others.

Mild intensity earthquake..

He said the depth of the earthquake was five kilometers below the surface at a latitude of 33.31 degrees north and a longitude of 75.19 degrees east.

There was no report of any damage reported from anywhere, a police official said.

SMVDSB wins first...

encourage exemplary work and efforts made by states, districts, individuals and organisations across the country in attaining the vision of 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.

The award was received by the shrine board's Chief Executive Officer Anshul Garg. "This will encourage and motivate the shrine board to continue its endeavour to adopt and promote best water usage practices in the future," Garg said after receiving the award.

The board takes initiative and adopts the best water management practices and techniques for water conservation, the official said.

These include the construction of water harvesting ponds, afforestation drives in Trikuta hills, installation of water ATMs, recycling of sewage treatment plants, reuse of water in flushing of toilet blocks, installation of waterless urinals and rooftop rainwater harvesting.

In addition, the board has been planting more than 1.50 lakh seedlings every year in the forest area for retention of water and prevention of soil erosion, the official said.

The board has been awarded consecutively for the past many years in recognition of its initiatives taken in varied spheres, the official said.

Court frames charges against Ex-Spl Secy Home for manipulating DOB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina framed charges against Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din, Ex-Special Secretary Home J&K for manipulating date of birth.

According to facts of the case the Crime Branch, Jammu, received a communication from the Law Secretary to the Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, vide his office communication No. PS/LS/2020/51 dated 05-03-2021, alleging therein that the accused has manipulated his date of birth in the service records which in actuality was 03-03-1959, but managed to record it as 03-03-1963 on 'Particulars page' of the service book. That on account of his correct date of birth i.e 03-03-1959, he was supposed to have retired on 03-03-2019, but, by this manipulation in the service book, the accused added more time to his service, resultantly illegal gain to him and wrongful loss to the exchequer of the State (Now UT).

Pursuant to this complaint, a discreet enquiry was conducted by the Govt. wherein it got prima facie established that the accused had manipulated and forged his original date of birth in his service records as 03-03-1963 instead of his actual date of birth 03-03-1959. Thus, he deliberately and intentionally, in-conmance with others, took illegal monetary gain and caused wrongful loss to the exchequer of the State of J&K, now UT. Therefore, his omissions and commissions constituted to offences punishable under section 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B RPC. Accordingly, a formal case got registered in Police Station Crime Branch, Jammu, bearing F.I.R No. 14/2021 against the accused and investigation was ensued in the case.

During the course of investigation, the academic record of the accused, from the various schools, he has attended, was seized like Govt. Middle School Hanjura, which was earlier a Primary School, High Secondary School Zoohama and that of the State Board of School Education, wherein he appeared in the 10th class examination. As per the said record, the date of birth of the accused, right from primary to tenth class and finally as recorded in J&K Board of School Education is 03-03-1959, whereas, the alleged forged 'Particulars page' of the service book reveals his date of birth as 03-03-1963. It is further discerned from the charge sheet that accused got engaged as casual labourer in the office of Executive Engineer, Electric Division, Budgam, in the month of 1978. Later in the year 1985, he was appointed as helper in the same office. From the record of the said period as seized from the office, it is reflected that accused's date of birth as mentioned therein was 03-03-1959, in accordance with the date of birth as recorded in his school and J&K Board records.

As further reflected in the charge-sheet, as per the pay acquaintance rolls seized from the office of Executive Engineer Electric Division, Budgam, where the accused has served firstly as casual labourer and then helper, he has drawn salary as 'helper' for the month of November and December, 1985. The drawing of salaries of these two months as helper is important in the context that accused after getting appointed as regular employee as 'Helper' in the month of October, 1985, has drawn his first and second salary in the month of November and December, 1985. Since the salary can be drawn only after the preparation/ construction of service book, therefore, there can be only following possibilities at the time of preparation of service book as recorded in the charge-sheet. Either service book got prepared in the month of October, November or December, 1985, hence the signatures put on the 'Particular's page' would have been of the then Executive Engineer, who would have prepared the service book during any of the said months. In that eventuality, the signatures appended by the Executive Engineer on the Pay Acquaintance Roll of the month of November and December, 1985, should have been similar to that of the signatures appended on the service book.

However, as per the FSL report enclosed, the signatures of Executive Engineer on the 'Particulars page' of the service book are not similar to the signatures of the Executive Engineer as appended on the Pay Acquaintance Roll of the said months i.e, of November and December 1985.

Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina after hearing both the sides observed that 'Particulars page' of the service book by forging his date of birth as 1963 instead of 1959. It is in this context the original details of his appointment as helper in the year, 1985, as put in the 'Particulars page' in the earlier service book, got removed by him as alleged and replaced by forged 'Particulars page', mentioning his date of birth as 1963. Thus, as per the investigation, based on documentary proof and other evidence as put in the charge-sheet, the offences under sections 420, 465,467, 468, 471, 120-B, 191, 201 RPC r/w Secs. 5(1)(d), 5(2) J&K PC Act stand prima facie established against the accused. Court further observed that in the light of the factual matrix of the case, as presented briefly in the foregoing paras, coupled with the legal position as referred to herein above, this Court is convinced that there is a prima-facie material on record to presume that offences under sections 5(1)(d) r/w Sec. 5(2) J&K PC Act, Svt. 2006 & Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, RPC stand committed by the accused for which he is liable to be charged offences.