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MONSOON FURY: Jammu...

further said that is due to casual and negligent approach of concerned department towards a Nallah, flowing through the area. Pandita has appealed to UT administration to take cognizance of such a serious public issue and direct the concerned department to immediately clean this Nallah beside maintaining it properly.

Meanwhile, residents of Lane-7 of Surya Vihar Bohri also stated that their centre drain needs to be got cleaned by Safaikaramcharie at the earliest. A flash flood or an untimely rain is reason enough to expose worst situation, as it is completely blocked and water flows out. The residents urged Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation to look into the matter besides doing the needful.

The water level of most of the rivers like Chinab, Tawi, Ujh, Basantar and other nallahs was running above the danger mark. Authorities issued advisories urging people to stay away from rivers, the officials said.

Dozens of vehicles were trapped on a highway in Kathua.

In Kishtwar, a foot-bridge was washed away in the Afri area, the officials said.

In Reasi district, a new track to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills was closed on Thursday as a precautionary measure following heavy rains in the area, they said.

As per the advisory, those residing in slide-prone areas should remain extra vigilant and report any untoward incident to the administration at the earliest.

According to reports, four persons were trapped in flash floods in Poonch district, prompting the Army to launch a rescue operation, Jammu-based PRO defence said.

Four persons were trapped in flash floods triggered by heavy rains in Poonch river last night and information reached the army unit in Jhulas, he said.

The Army swiftly responded to a critical situation and in coordination with SDRF and police rescued four precious lives at Jhulas, the PRO said.

Meanwhile, the debris struck the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country at Mehaar, Cafeteria Moore and Pantiyal areas, thereby blocking the highway, officials said.

"People are advised not to travel on Jammu-Srinagar highway without confirmation", a traffic police advisory said.

The convoy of Amarnath yatra which was on its way from Jammu to Kashmir was halted at Chanderkoot Yatra Niwas due to the highway blockade, they said.

Rs 24 cr heroin...

In this case it is being suspected that the goods came through the drone.

Sources told that it has become clear that the goods have come across the border only by drone. The matter is being investigated by SIT formed under the supervision of SP Sonth. All the three arrested accused are residents of Amritsar and have been identified as Sarwan Singh, son of Kala Singh, Malkit Singh, son of Gurmee Singh and Balbir Singh, son of Balbir Singh.

Sinha lays e-foundation...

Girija Maharaj; Dr Ashok Bhan; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Dr. Neelam Sareen; Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta attended the occasion in person & through virtual mode.

The Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk) would be constructed at Bhawan and Gayatri Bhawan, staff residential accommodation, shall come up at Katra.

The Lt Governor said that the Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk) is one of the focused initiatives of the Shrine Board for Yatra Management as this facility shall ensure safety, comfort and ease of commutation of the devotees.

"Yatri Queue Management System has been conscientiously curated by the Shrine Board with the intent to decongest traffic at Bhawan for the devotees visiting the shrine to ensure their easy crossover and to overcome the problem of multidirectional movement of devotees", he added.

Conceptualized with an emphasis on safety and facility development, the Skywalk which will be executed through CPWD with wooden flooring will be 20 feet above the track level, 200 meter in length with two rescue areas having provision of seating arrangements for senior citizens & ladies. In addition, two waiting halls with washroom facilities are being constructed along the Sky Walk to accommodate seating for around 150 devotees.

The Lt Governor directed the CEO, SMVDSB and the executing agency for speedy execution of the work within the timeline of five months.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also launched 'Panch Mewa Prasad' for devotees who visit the famous Hindu pilgrimage, nestled in Trikuta Hills. It was informed that the Panch Mewa Parsed shall be made available to the devotees at Darshani Deodi, Banganga and Darshani Deodi, Tarakote. However, this facility shall be extended to souvenir shops and other locations like Helpil, Railway Station, Airport, Jammu and Niharika complex etc.

The Lt Governor also reviewed ongoing project of Durga Bhawan and directed the executing agency for adhering to the timeline for the completion of this high utility pilgrim-centric facility. The five-storey Durga Bhawan will have all requisite amenities, besides having adequate provision for harnessing clean energy, recycling of waste water linking up with existing STPs and provision of elevators etc.

To add facilities for meeting the accommodation needs for the staff, the Lt Governor also laid e-foundation stone for the construction of staff residential accommodation at Nomania, Katra.

The complex to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.62 crore will have 16 two-room sets and 28 single-room sets with attached kitchen and bathroom, underground parking space, provision of two lifts and fire safety and shall be completed in fixed time period of 12 months.

In addition, the issues related to remodeling of Parvati Bhawan, RFID and Slope Stabilization were also deliberated upon and necessary instructions were issued by the Lt Governor to the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB.

The Lt Governor was apprised by the CEO about proposed solutions like RFID based tracking and dispatching pilgrims in batches among few others.

The Lt Governor directed for proper safety measures to be taken to deal with the issue of shooting stones, after consultation with the experts. He expressed satisfaction over the construction of infrastructure including accommodation for employees of the Shrine Board and a Yoga Bhawan.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Navneet Singh, Additional Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and Superintendent Engineer, CPWD, besides other

COVID: 685 new cases, one more death in J&K, Ladakh adds 22 cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 685 fresh Covid cases on Thursday that took the infection tally to 4,62,633, while one more fatality pushed the death toll to 4,766, officials said. Of the new cases, 262 were reported from the Jammu division and 423 from the Kashmiri valley, they said.

There are 4,316 active cases in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. So far, 4,53,551 people have recovered from the disease, they said. Meanwhile, Ladakh on Thursday reported 22 fresh COVID-19 cases that took its infection tally to 28,843, officials said. All the fresh cases were reported from Leh, 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 COVID-19 cases in the union territory stands at 150 -- 139 in Leh and 11 in Kargil. Of the 529 samples tested for COVID-19 in Ladakh, 348 from Leh and 159 from Kargil were found to be negative, they said.

Anirudh appointed Secretary & Media Coordinator JKPYC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To further strengthen youth wing of Congress at grass-root level in J&K, Jammu Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress Committee (JKPYC) made new appointments, wherein Anirudh Sawhney was appointed as Secretary, Pradesh Youth Congress and Incharge Media Coordinator JKPYC. The appointment was made by JKPYC President Uday Bhanu Chib and approved by IYC General Secretary Jagdev Gag and IYC Secretary Navneet Kaur.

The newly appointed office bearer promised to strengthen the youth wing at the ground level and carry out his responsibilities along party principles and ideals.

As one of the youngest members to join the ranks of the Youth Congress in J&K, Sawhney thanked the Youth Congress leadership for the opportunity and resolved to work hard to support the party. It was further stated that Youth Congress members should work towards ensuring the progress of the Congress party.

officials of SMVDB were present on the occasion.

LG exhorts PRIs...

commitment towards sustainable management of rich natural wealth to combat climate change and ensure a better future for younger generations.

"Protection & conservation of natural resources and striking a perfect balance between nature & development is our top most priority", he said.

The Lt Governor underscored the reforms introduced by the UT government in the last two years aimed at reducing the impact of climate change and overcoming the challenges of the fragile ecosystem.

Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with nature's rich resources, with 54% of the area under green cover. A large population of J&K is dependent on forests for their livelihood. Dedicated efforts are being made to safeguard their interest, besides bringing behavior change in the lifestyle of people making conservation of nature a part of their everyday life, he added.

Terming forests as the mainstay of priority sectors of J&K's economy including Agriculture, Horticulture, Tourism, Power Generation, Wood Industry and Animal Husbandry, the Lt Governor shared the government's vision to bring two-third area of the UT under forest & tree cover and make the protection of natural resources an integral part of J&K's development model.

J&K Social Forestry Plantation Rules is another great example of devolution of funds, functions to Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir; empowering all 4290 Village Panchayat Plantation Committees of the UT, said the Lt Governor.

These rules envisage the active participation of Village Panchayat Plantation Committees (VPPCs) at the level of Gram Panchayats to take up works of afforestation & their protection, equitable distribution of plantation-based benefits and management of Gram Panchayat Fund by realizing 75% share from the proceeds of mature plantations, it was informed.

Citing a report of the central government, the Lt Governor noted that the per capita value of forest produce in J&K is the highest in the country which comes to Rs. 25 as compared to Rs. 3.72 for Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 2.48 for Kerala and Rs. 1.69 for Maharashtra. Our per capita wood consumption is also higher than other states and import of wood worth Rs 500-600 crore is being done every year, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor underlined the need for integrating the development process with the environment protection campaigns.

As J&K is witnessing a new era of industrial development, Forests and Industries Departments are coming together to plant 1.5 lakh trees of different varieties around the Industrial Parks, Industrial Clusters which should be a regular activity, he informed.

The Lt Governor called for active participation of the people, PRIs, Village Plantation Committees, school children in environment conservation efforts and urged the citizens to follow the Green Protocol voluntarily by using biodegradable products only at the weddings.

The Lt Governor also advised the Forest Department and the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Board to introduce "Best out of Waste" in the home work tasks for creating awareness about environmental protection among the children.

He further called for running a campaign against the use of plastic and reaching out to the maximum population to make them aware about the importance of environment protection & conservation.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Forest department and all the stakeholders for planting about 2 crore 38 lakh new saplings in the last two years and making a significant contribution in increasing the UT's green cover. He further commended the Panchayat Village Plantation Committees for their active participation in Natural Resource Management.

Speaking on the occasion, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament congratulated the UT Administration for achieving visible results in increasing the green cover of the UT. He also appreciated the efforts of the forest department in making Green Jammu and Kashmir drive a mass movement.

Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairperson Samba, urged the general public to come forward and play their important role in environment protection as it is the only solution to tackle climate change.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), in his welcome address threw light on the significance of the Green J&K Drive, and also urged the people to plant a tree & contribute in making the environment green and clean.

Prof YK Gupta, President AIIMS Jammu thanked the Lt Governor for choosing AIIMS for the launching of Green Jammu and Kashmir Drive.

Roshan Jaggi, Director Social Forestry concluded the program with a vote of thanks.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor e-inaugurated a double storey office building of Conservator of Forest, North Circle in Sopore, besides releasing a documentary and a publication on Green J&K Drive and Jan-Bhagidari - one year of working in partnership with Village Panchayat Plantation Committee. A tree sapling was also planted by the Lt Governor in the premises of AIIMS.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Samba along with senior officials from the concerned departments and people from all walks of life were present during the launch of the Green J&K drive.

Amarnath Yatra: Chhari...

the statement said.

Rituals will be performed for Chhari-Sthapana at Shri Amareshwar temple Dashnami Akhara here on Sunday, after which Chhari-Pujan will be performed at Dashnami Akhara on the auspicious occasion of Nag-Panchami' on August 2, it said.

Giri will carry the holy mace to the holy cave shrine to perform pujan and have darshan' on morning of Shrawan-Purnima' on August 12 after having night halts at Pahalgam on August 7 and, Chandanwari on August 9, Sheshnag on August 10 and Panchtarani on August 11, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the 28th batch of 1,602 pilgrims this morning left from Jammu for 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

They left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 55 vehicles amid heavy security of CRPF this morning, the officials said.

First to leave were 596 pilgrims, heading for Baltal, in 21 vehicles followed by the second convoy of 34 vehicles carrying 1,006 pilgrims for Pahalgam, they said.

J&K Police competent to deal with multiple security challenges: DGP



DGP Dilbag Singh along with ADGP Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh flagging-off fleet of bikes.

ensure safety, security (of pilgrims) and its (yatra's) regulation.

He said attempts are on from the Pakistan side to ferry weapons, explosive material and narcotics through drones used by the LeT and the JEM.

"They are out to target Jammu and its people by dropping ready-made IEDs through drones in border areas. They want to harm people of Jammu," Singh said.

Emphasising on modernisation, he said the J-K Police is in the process of upgrading its technology and equipment.

"It (retrofitted motorbikes) is a step in this direction. It is aimed to strengthen field formations at the ground level to deal with various situations in the Jammu region.

He said police in Jammu have foiled several such conspiracies and terror plans.

"It is a daily challenge and police are performing well. They have planted IEDs at several places and caused damage. Recently a terror module of (LeT commander) Talib Hussain was busted (in

the ground level). We want

The number of pilgrims visiting cave shrine have drastically fallen in past three days mostly due to bad weather conditions, the officials said.

The annual 43-day yatra commenced on June 30 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

Till Wednesday, over 2.33 lakh pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, the officials said.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

A total of 36 people mostly pilgrims have died during the on-going yatra till date, excluding 15 pilgrims, who died in the flash floods at Amarnath cave shrine on July 1.

J&K Admn names...

Kumar Dwivedi, said.

It said Government Higher Secondary School Soaf Shali, Anantnag is named after late Sarwanand Kaul Premi, Government Boys Middle School, Wanpora, Gurez after martyr Reyaz Ahmad Lone and GMS Chandanwari after martyr rifleman Mohammad Saifeer Khan.

Similarly, GMS Dab was named after martyr paratrooper Shabir Ahmad Malik, GMS Kupwara after martyr rifleman Abdul Hameed Chara, UPS Kundlajan after martyr head constable Abdul Rashid Kalas, GMS Banday Mohalla Handwara after martyr selection grade constable Ghulam Mustafa Barah, and UPS Kashmiri Manigah after martyr head constable Sheraz Ahmad, the order said.

It said Government Middle School (Boys) Garhi is named after martyr constable Rajinder Kumar, Govt Boys Middle School Jaganoor after martyr constable Raj Kumar, Girls Middle School, Muthlal, Alanbas after martyr constable Naseeb Singh, Govt Middle School Bagga (Jamsan) after martyr special police officer (SPO) Jalal Din.

MS Butt Pura Dool was named after martyr constable Shamim Ahmed, MS Sounder after martyr head constable Raghu Nath, Middle School, Chatyari, Panchayat Loorkote after martyr Sepoy Joginder Singh, PS Patti after martyr havaldar Sartool Singh, Govt Girls Middle School Kheri after martyr constable Raj Kumar, and Govt Primary School Dab Ditta after martyr constable Jagdev Singh, the order read.

The administration ordered that the School Education Department shall take immediate necessary steps including amending records for effecting the changes.

It also directed the divisional commissioner of Kashmir and Jammu to personally monitor the naming of infrastructure assets in their respective divisions and asked the deputy commissioners to ensure that suitable events are held in this connection.

ACB nabs Field...

prima facie disclosed commission of offences under section 7 of P.C Act 1988 (as amended in 2018), and FIR No 22/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla against accused. "Immediately after registration of case, a trap team was constituted which caught the accused red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe from complainant at Baramulla. He was arrested on spot," said official, adding that searches were also conducted at the residence of accused.

Box tagged 'TESTED'...

for examination. As per the details, on Thursday afternoon, some people informed the police that a red-colored torn balloon with a box is lying inside the bushes in the machine area. On this information, SHO Domana Tilak Raj reached the spot and on opening the compartment, some suspicious items were found inside it along with the battery. The police seized the box and sent it to Bomb Disposal Squad. The material found with the balloon does not appear to be explosive as no powder was found with the box.

395 non-performers...