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Cronyism, unethical nexus...

discuss and deliberate through seminars. The facilities at both the locations will also have a cafe, VR, conference and seminar facilities for youth.

At Baramulla, the Lt Governor inaugurated various development projects for the district.

He commended the efforts of the District Administration, members of PRIs and civil society for taking Baramulla ahead on the path of peace and development.

"Baramulla is now moving towards becoming Inspirational District from Aspirational District. The district has made impressive strides to socio-economic development in the last few years", the Lt Governor said.

Reiterating the commitment of the J&K administration to work for socio-economic empowerment of all, the Lt Governor said, the marginalized section of society have first right on government's resources.

"Vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas has brought transformation in the lives of underprivileged. We are working on holistic and scalable strategy to harness tremendous creative power of a large population", the Lt Governor said.

He said, land to landless and a Pakka House under PMAY will unleash the full potential of thousands of families and will meet their basic needs.

"Government wants to see the last person in the queue get a sense of empowerment and I want to assure these families that a promising future awaits you", the Lt Governor said.

Paying tributes to the Lion of Baramulla Maqbool Sherwani, the Lt Governor called upon all the sections of society to make their significant contribution in the next 25 year journey of new and aspirational J&K towards Viksit Jammu Kashmir.

Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council, Baramulla lauded the continuous efforts of the Lt Governor led UT administration for the welfare and empowerment of the youth of the J&K through initiatives like Mission Youth.

Rahul Nehra, Director Jadooz Media informed that the blockbuster Bollywood 'Pathaan' will be showcased at the newly inaugurated cinemas.

Mission Youth endeavours to establish Multipurpose Cinema halls across the UT. On pilot basis Multipurpose Cinema Halls were taken up in districts of Pulwama, Shopian, Udhampur, Bandipora, Kupwara, Doda and Baramulla.

The other projects worth Rs 4 crore inaugurated by Lt Governor at Baramulla includes nine roomed three storey building at HSS Kunzer; Auditorium at HSS Sultanpora; Water Supply Schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission at Achabal Doabagh, Vadderabad, Panzalla, and WSS Dolipora Fresthar.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO Mission Youth; Vivek Gupta, DIG; Dr Syed Sehresh Asgar, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, senior officials of Police, Civil Administration and Security Forces, PRI members, office bearers of Jadooz Media and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

Amarnath Yatra cross...

and organized arrangements besides passionate support from the people.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of over 7,000 pilgrims left Jammu city early this morning in the twin base camps in the Valley to join the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal -- on July 1.

The officials said the 13th batch of 7,392 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a convoy of 272 vehicles amid tight security.

While 4,024 pilgrims left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 146 vehicles, 3,368 devotees left for Baltal in 126 vehicles around 4 am, they said.

With this, a total of 80,181 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the Valley since June 30.

Pilgrims from across the country undertake the Amarnath Yatra to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine that houses a naturally formed ice shivlingam.

At 24,445, the highest number of pilgrims offered prayers at the shrine on Friday. So far, over 1.90 lakh devotees have undertaken the yatra.

The pilgrims are being provided all the facilities by the departments concerned round the clock, they said.

CJ inaugurates Court...

and District Sessions Judge, Bandipora, Amit Sharma; Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad; SSP Bandipora, Lakshay Sharma; Judicial Magistrate (First Class), Shayesta Nazir; members of the Bar Association Gurez and representatives from the legal fraternity.

Addressing a huge gathering on the occasion, Chief Justice emphasized on the importance of robust judicial system in ensuring rule of law and safeguarding rights of citizens. Chief Justice added that the inauguration of the Court Complex at Gurez marks a significant step forward in enhancing access to justice for the people of the region. With the latest facilities and a dedicated team of legal professionals, the complex is expected to expedite the legal processes, reduce case backlogs, and provide timely justice to those in need, he said.

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh expressed his gratitude to district administration Bandipora, judiciary, and all stakeholders involved in making Court Complex at Gurez a reality. He emphasized that this infrastructure development is a testament to commitment to strengthening the justice delivery system and ensuring swift and fair resolution of disputes.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, in her address on the occasion said that

Judiciary has always ensured justice to remote areas of the country and the visit of Chief Justice to Gurez for the inauguration of new court complex is one such example. She said that new court complex at Gurez will ensure delivery of justice to people of the sub division.

Principal and District Sessions Judge while speaking on the occasion, informed that newly constructed Court Complex boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including modern courtrooms equipped with advanced technology to streamline proceedings. He added that the complex also houses administrative offices, conference rooms, and a dedicated space for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, providing a comprehensive framework to cater to the diverse needs of the legal community and the public.

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr Owais on the occasion said that the newly constructed complex, valued at Rupees 4.67 crore, will serve as a symbol of justice and reinforce the commitment to providing efficient and accessible legal services to the people of Gurez.

After inaugurating the New Court Complex, the Chief Justice also interacted with members of Bar Association Gurez, local community and discussed various issues and concerns with them. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the legal community in Gurez and assured them of his unwavering support in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial system.

Later, Chief Justice inaugurated Legal Literacy Club at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Dawar, aimed to empower young minds with essential legal knowledge and foster a sense of legal responsibility among them.

The Chief Justice also presided a legal awareness programme on Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drugs, which included informative sessions, presentations, skits and interactive discussions on various legal topics.

The Chief Justice in his address to students, advised them to stay away from the drugs in life at all cost and in any situation. He said that drug abuse is a big challenge in our society and we collectively need to raise voice against it and save our children and youth from this menace.

Two girls drown...

launched, culminating in the recovery of the bodies of Monika Devi and Radha Devi -- both students of Class 6 -- and the rescue of two others, the officer said.

Singh said one of the rescued girls, Archana Devi, also a student of Class 6, was referred to the sub-district hospital in Billawar for treatment.

In a tweet, Union Minister Jitendra Singh expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

"Just now spoken to DC Kathua, Rakesh Minhas, after receiving the report about the unfortunate incident My office is coordinating with the administration for all possible assistance. Meanwhile, parents, in general, are advised not to let their children venture out during inclement weather," he said.

In another incident, a police officer said two people were trapped following a flash flood in a stream near Samrol in Udhampur district but were rescued by a joint team of police, Army, State Disaster Response Force and the Central Reserve Police Force. In the border district of Poonch, heavy rain led to waterlogging in the Mendhar market, causing hardships to the people, especially shopkeepers.

The water entered many shops and also affected movement of traffic. PTI TAS.

HC frames rules...

the date of completion of 7 years of engagement of the petitioner reckoning from 01.10.1994.

This judgment of the writ court came to be challenged in a time barred Letters Patent Appeal LPA SW no. 36/2018 which came to be dismissed by the Division Bench with an observation that there is no question of any interference given the fact that the case of the petitioner was covered by a Full Bench decision. The judgment of the Single Bench read with LPA judgment of the Division Bench came to be questioned in Special Leave Petition (SLP) (Civil) no. 16932/2019 before the Supreme Court of India which too came to be dismissed in terms of an order dated 21.05.2020, thus, leaving no scope for any escape for the respondents and that meant the then State of Jammu and Kashmir, with its successor being the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, to carry out the implementation of the judgment in its letter and spirit by an order of regularization of the petitioner in the service with consequential effects as directed in the writ court judgment.

After having failed to earn the compliance of the said judgment in her favour from the writ-respondents' end, the petitioner was constrained to come up with the present contempt petition which came to be filed in December 2020 and now more than two and half years have gone by that the compliance of the judgment is not in the sight going by the tone and tenor of the repeated statement of facts filed in the case with the latest being 24.05.2023 filed by Mandeep Kour (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to Govt., Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj.

Justice Rahul Bharti during the course of hearing, observed that a perusal of the said statement of facts bears out in bold letters the stand of the Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. that the officer is not competent authority to regularize the service of the petitioner at his/her own level under rules.

It seems that the Commissioner/Secretary to Govt., Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Govt. of UT of Jammu and Kashmir has misconception about the status of the Commissioner/Secretary to Government. The Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of its Business Rules acts through its respective Administrative Departments which are headed by the Commissioner/Secretary and by that reference, the statement of Mandeep Kour (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to Govt., Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj. UT of J&K read between the lines is that the Govt. of UT of

Jammu and Kashmir is telling this Court that Govt. of UT of Jammu and Kashmir is not competent to regularize the service of the petitioner. This Court has not to go door to door seeking each and every Department of the Govt. of UT of Jammu and Kashmir for the purpose of fetching compliance of its directions/writs.

Court further observed that mockery at the end of the respondents are further exhibited by an Annexure-R1 & Annexure-R2 accompanying the current latest statement of facts which is an internal communication dated 28.04.2023 of a Deputy Secretary to the Govt., General Administration Department addressed to Commissioner/Secretary to the Govt., Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, the tone and tenor of which is that the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj shall express its inability to implement the directions of the Court by citing the direction of the Supreme Court of India in "State of Karnataka vs Uma Devi" case and other similar binding precedents and ordered that this Court suo moto impleads Jaffar Hussain (JKAS), Deputy Secretary to the Govt. as a contennor in this contempt petition for his said note addressed to Commissioner/Secretary to the Govt., Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.

of both sides and said that the most important aspect while considering application for regular bail under section 439 Cr PC are the gravity and seriousness of the offence as well as the severity of the punishment. The Additional Session Judge of the court held that in view of the overall facts and circumstances I am of the considered opinion that at this stage no ground for bail is made out. Accordingly the bail application under Section 439 Cr PC also stands dismissed.

CUET-UG results...

Biochemistry, followed by 2,836 in Economics.

"The performance of every candidate has been evaluated using the equi-percentile method wherein normalised marks of each candidate have been calculated using the percentiles of each group of students in a given session across multiple days for the same subject," said Sadhana Parashar, Senior Director, National Testing Agency (NTA).

"The role of the NTA is confined to the registration of candidates, the conduct of the test, hosting of answer keys, inviting challenges, finalising answer keys, preparing and declaring results, and hosting scorecards.

"A merit list will be prepared by participating universities and organisations. The universities will decide about their individual counselling on the basis of the scorecard of CUET (UG) - 2023 provided by NTA," she added.

The CUET-UG is the second-largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of applicants. In its first edition, 12.5 lakh students had registered for the exam and 9.9 lakh had submitted their applications.

This year the exam was conducted in nine phases between May 21 and July 5 and unlike last year, it was held in three shifts.

University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar, who is coordinating CUET with NTA, said that the agency involved 2,200 question experts and 800 translators in preparing 2,305 question papers and 1,48,520 questions this year.

"In subjects such as Accountancy, Biology, Business Studies, Economics, English, History, and Political Science, more than 1000 students got 100 percentile scores.

"NTA will provide normalised scores to the 250 participating universities. They can use these scores to prepare the merit list for admission to UG programs," he said.

Like last year, Humanities and Commerce subjects had more than 100 percentile scores than science subjects, excluding Biology. For instance, in mathematics, 251 students were in the hundredth percentile, while in Physics, this number was 83 and in Chemistry 233.

While the exam was conducted in 13 languages, the maximum number of candidates took the exam in English followed by Hindi.

Explaining the rationale for the normalisation of CUET-UG scores, the UGC Chief said, "What is important to note is that CUET-UG has been conducted over a period of 6 weeks with tests in a given subject held on different days.

"So naturally the question that arises is how are we going to compare the performance of different students on a common scale since they have written the test in the same subject but on different days.

"We need to ensure that the admissions are made based on a score that accurately compares the performance of the students," Kumar said.

Asked why normalisation is done for CUET-UG and not all entrance exams, he said unlike CUET-UG, other entrance examinations are limited to fewer subjects.

"In single session entrance tests, one common statistically established method is to transform the raw marks into a common uniform scale using the percentile method so that the performance of students can be compared to each other.

"But in entrance tests such as CUET-UG, since the test is conducted on different days and in multiple sessions for the same subject, it will give rise to multiple percentiles for each group of students.

"In addition to the above difficulty another problem with using only percentiles is that in subjects such as Sports or Fine Arts, some weightage is given to the skill component by some universities," he said.

In the equi-percentile method, the percentile for each candidate is calculated using the raw marks of the candidate as compared to the raw marks of others in the same session.

This is done for every session across multiple days for the same subject. These percentiles are then equated and converted into normalised marks. Sessions with smaller number of candidates are clubbed with bigger sessions.

DYSS holds sports meet for women in Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: The Department of Youth Services Sports (DYSS) organised sports events for womenfolk at zone level with the sole aim to create awareness about fitness and sports among the female. Such competitions took place in three different zones of district Reasi including Pomi, Mahore, and Arnas in the discipline of Volleyball, Badminton and Carrom involving around 200 housewives. At Pomi, the event took place at Government HSS Pomi wherein member of District Development Council (DDC), Rita Sharma and SP

Khajuria, Principal of host school were special guests. The event was organized by Kulwant Singh ZPEO Pomi and coordinated by Ashok Sharma PEM HSS Pomi. At Mahore, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Tehsildar Mahore declared open the meet in the presence of ZPEO Mahore, Naseer Ahmed. Similarly, at Arnas, the competition was organized by Vice Principal HSS Thuroo, Pritam Singh and coordinated by Sukhvinder Singh. The whole event coordinated and executed by Tarsem Singh, DYSSO Reasi.

DC reviews progress of various schemes under different sectors at Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaisliya convened a meeting of officers of line departments to review the progress of various schemes being implemented in different sectors of the district here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur. While reviewing the sector wise progress of various sectors of the district, the DC stressed upon the officers to rejuvenate their efforts for achievement of optimum results on the grounds so that benefits of development percolate to the masses at gross root level. He said that participation in planning process is mandatory of all the departments for implementation of govt. schemes so that benefits of schemes reach to genuine beneficiaries. DC asked the officers to put in their dedicated efforts in accelerating the tempo of developmental activities pertaining to their departments so that desired targets could be achieved in a time bound manner.The DDC impressed upon the officers to work with zeal and dedication to achieve the set targets during the current financial year and also stressed on close monitoring of ongoing works to ensure quality and adherence to timelines. He further enjoined upon all the officers to know their schemes in and out, so that they can deliver as per the objectives of the schemes. Among others, Chief Planning Officer, Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Ranjeet Kotwal and other senior officers of various departments attended the meeting.

Aarav shines in U-15, U-13 selection Chess



Chess matches in progress.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the ongoing JAMMU Division selection events of Chess, organised by All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), Aarav Gupta won in both in under-15 and under-13 age groups of boys. Aarav Gupta was in great

form today and was unstoppable winning all the games and both titles while Anish Kotwal got second position in under-15 while Anand Swaroop remained third. The fourth and fifth positions went to Aarav Mahajan and Tannmay Jamwal respectively.

In Under-13 age group, Tannmay Jamwal got second place, followed by Vansh Bakshi at third spot. Vaibhav and Panache Gupta finished fourth and fifth respectively. Total cash prizes worth Rs.24500 distributed among the top five position holders in both the categories, a handbook issued by the AJKCA here today informed.

The FIDE Arbiter, Anil kotwal was chief Arbiter of the event who conducted all the matches as per FIDE Laws of Chess and latest international rules. Atul Kumar Gupta, working president of AJKCA and Baldev Raj, president among others witnessed the matches.

DGPC Kathua organises Gurmata Smagam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee Kathua organised a Gurmata Smagam of Sehaj Path at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Kathua where bhog ceremony of Shri Sehaj Pathis was performed. Large number of sangat completed their Sehaj Path individually which were started earlier in July 2022.Last year with the cooperation of shri sehaj Path Sewa Amritsar DGPC provided a opportunity for sangat to read the whole Guru Granth Sahib through Sehaj Path. The maximum sangat of Kathua availed the opportunity and stated their Sehaj Path and now all have completed their Path.

In the Bhog ceremony of



DCPC members during Smagam at Kathua.

Sehaj Path bhai Dilbagh Singh Parcharak of Sehaj Path Sewa Amritsar congratulated to all and delivered a very impressive lecture about the Gurbani. He said that we are instructed by Guru Sahib we have to take faith in lord and do practice deep meditation. It is our foremost duty to read and under-

stand the Gurbani. S.Parveen Singh General Secretary appreciated the sangat those who have completed Sehaj Path first time in their life. He stated the best efforts of our life is to chant the name of Lord in the heart forever. This is the great achievement of DGPC Kathua that

GDC Kathua organises farewell for outgoing NSS volunteers



Faculty along with NSS volunteers of the college.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: NSS Units of GDC Kathua organised farewell function for the outgoing NSS Volunteers of 6th semester in the college auditorium. The day was a fiesta

devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers, to reminisce joyous moments. The auditorium was festooned with decorations. Being a colorful affair, the farewell bash rocked the day for all the party attendees. The eye catching moments were the dance performances of the students. Dr. Neha Bandral NSS, PO welcomed the chief guest of the occasion, Principal GDC Kathua, Prof. Seema Mir with flower bouquet and warmly welcomed all other senior faculty present. The programme started with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the Principal GDC Kathua, Prof. Seema Mir along with senior faculty members Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma, Head Dept of Physics, Prof. Jaswinder Singh, Associate Professor Department of Physics and Prof Shub Sharma Head Department of Sanskrit. Principal Prof Seema Mir addressed the volunteers and blessed the outgoing volunteers for their bright future. She assured the volunteers that they will always get sup-

port and guidance of college even after they would leave this prestigious institute. She encouraged them by saying that never compromise with your principles and abide by the moral values and discipline they have learnt from the college.

The event was followed up by various cultural activities by the volunteers including Group Dances, Singing & Solo Dances organized by the volunteers for their senior volunteers. Prof Mamohan Singh NSS Program officer also addressed the volunteers and appreciated their arrangement of the programme. He added that farewell party is celebrated not to just to say goodbye to the friends, as they step into a new realm of life. It also a commemoration to celebrate all the good times together and wishing the best for the future. Along with this, the 6th sem volunteers narrated their experience in the NSS Family during the college time to the junior volunteers and some students also get emotional remembering their past days.

Sharad and Anamika Sharma volunteers of sixth semester selected as Mr Farewell and Miss Farewell.

The whole event was wonderfully hosted and coordinated by Vishal Gupta, Alieshea Rajput, Lakshay, Yashvee Gotra and others.

The event was being supervised by NSS Program officer Prof Mamohan Singh, Prof Neha Bandral and Dr Suresh Sharma.