

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

LG terms pilgrims..

and police personnel, doctors, medical staff, rescue teams, and the steps taken to facilitate the smooth movement of yatis.

During his visit to Chandanwari Base Camp, the Lt Governor interacted with pilgrims, sanitation workers, service providers and took stock of the arrangements.

The Lt Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Piyush Singla, Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department; Syed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Army.

Cloudburst triggers flash..

a programme of the Dalai Lama in Leh was postponed, the officials said.

They said some shops were damaged in the Gangles area and there was a lot of debris in the Chokhang Vihara area.

Many tourists, including foreigners, lent a helping hand and were seen cleaning the main market area following the flash flood.

A defence spokesperson said columns of the Army undertook a flood relief operation in the upper reaches of Leh town and opened the passage for 70 stranded civilian vehicles, besides assisting in the removal of mud and slush from 30 residential buildings.

He said the flash floods caused heavy damage in the upper regions of Skimpri village, the Lamdon School area and adjoining places. Army personnel worked round the clock to provide all necessary assistance and support to the civilians, the official added.

President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association Thupstan Chewwang said soon after the flash floods struck, Army personnel arrived voluntarily and helped minimise the damage. "I want to thank the Army," he added.

"Since the morning, hundreds of Buddhists, Muslims, and foreigners have rendered their services, which also indicates religious harmony and unity in Ladakh. All of these people have come voluntarily to help in the restoration work," Chewwang said.

He said Chogam Vihara is a low-lying area and so water and debris entered buildings like their meeting hall, causing damage to furniture etc.

"There is more than six inches of mud. Though there is not much loss economically, this is a lesson for us for the future. The UT administration will have to think over it and rectify the drainage system, which is in shambles," he said.

Ladakh Police, meanwhile, requested the general public, civil societies and volunteers of various organisations to aid the police and civil administration in rescue efforts so that normal life and traffic regulations are resumed at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kargil, Ghulam Mohi-U-Din Wani visited flood-affected areas in the Drass sub-division, including Youlboo, Goshan, Bairas, Hajipora, Ulbarus and Muradbagh.

Wani urged the departments concerned to stay alert and issued directions for the temporary restoration of blocked irrigation canals, an official said.

The official said the flash floods have caused some damage to crops, roads, parapet walls and the polo ground in Drass.

Rains, landslides: Traffic...

the morning, also damaging a residential house at Alinbass-A, Chanbas, while a portion of Ukhral-Senabathi road was damaged.

A bridge abutment near Magarkote, Sujmatrna was swept away in the flash floods, leaving several villages including Khowra, Dragali, Dardahi and Alma without connectivity, the official said.

The 20th batch of 3,472 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu in 132 vehicles in the early hours this morning but the convoy was stopped at Chanderkote due to the closure of the highway, they said.

Of them, 2,515 pilgrims are listed to undertake the yatra to the amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas from Pahalgam in Anantnag district and 957 by the Baltal route in Ganderbal district, the officials said.

Over three lakh pilgrims have already undertaken the pilgrimage to the shrine located at an altitude of 3,880 metres since it began on July 1.

Road clearance operations are on at affected areas to ensure early restoration of traffic on the highway, according to traffic department officials.

Light to moderate rains and thunderstorms have been reported from many parts of Jammu and Kashmir, a meteorological department official said.

Rainfall is likely to continue throughout the day with forecast of heavy spells in certain areas such as those in Kathua district. This will be followed by intermittent light to moderate rain at scattered places on Sunday, he said.

A Gujjar hamlet at Ghadkhal in the Akhnoor sector on the outskirts of Jammu was inundated due to rise in the water level of the Chenab river in the morning. According to officials, the current water level of the Chenab at Akhnoor is 29.6 feet against the flood alert level of 32 feet.

A powerful cloudburst that struck Kota Nullah in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district early this morning washed away a stretch of Thaleela - Chiralal link road and creating flood like situation. Meanwhile police rescued two persons from flood at Kota Nallah.

Sub Divisional Magistrate Thathri Athar Amin Zargar informed that a portion of road of Thaleela-Chiralal link got washed away after a cloudburst occurred in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

"The cloud burst coupled with heavy rain resulted in mudslides and flood like situation in Kota Nullah. However no loss of life or injury was reported. Men and machinery is being deployed to clear debris from the road and restore it at the earliest," SDM Thathri added saying that Doda - Kishtwar stretch of highway which got closed due to cloudburst between Shiva Pull to Thathri Petrol Pump has been restored for two way traffic.

Meanwhile torrential rains continued in most part of Doda and Kishtwar districts on third day today, resulting rise in water bodies including Chinab river and its major tributaries like Neeru and Kalnai.

The District administration and Police Doda has advised people to remain cautious and stay away from Streams, Rivers and other vulnerable spots.

Meanwhile, ASP Bhadarwah Vinod Sharma informed that two persons were rescued from flood in Kota Nullah in Puneja area of Doda district on Thaleela-Chiralal link road.

"After receiving information, a police team led by SHO Thathri Amrit Katoch and Incharge PP Karara rescued two persons, who stucked in flood in Kota Nallah," ASP Bhadarwah informed.

"Today an information was received at PP Karara that one individual namely Raj Singh, son of Rimal Singh, resident of Amala udhampur have got stuck in a sudden flash flood at Puneja road. Acting Swiftly the Police party of PP lead by Insp Amrit Katoch rushed to the spot to launch rescue operation," he said, adding that HC Shahnavaz and HC Rajinder Singh risked their lives and entered into the gushing stream of flood and by showing exemplary valor and presence of mind saved the said person from washing away in the flood.

Delhi Prisons suspends...

conviction and life sentence in a terror funding case, was brought to the high-security apex court premises in a prison van escorted by armed security personnel without the court's permission.

He walked into the courtroom to the utter surprise of all present.

"In the matter of physical production of Malik before the Supreme Court on Friday, the Prisons Department has suspended one deputy superintendent, two assistant superintendents and one head warder Friday night as they were found to be prima facie responsible based on preliminary enquiry," the statement said.

"Detailed enquiry is being conducted by DIG Tihar to identify any other officials who may also be responsible for the serious lapse," it added.

On Friday, prison officials said Deputy Inspector General (Prisons-Headquarters) Rajiv Singh would conduct the inquiry to find out the lapse and fix the responsibility of erring officials and submit a report to the Director General (Prisons) within three days.

Voicing surprise at Yasin's presence in the Supreme Court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Friday told a bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Dipankar Datta that there was a procedure for high-risk convicts to be allowed into the courtroom to argue their case personally.

When Mehta pointed at Malik's presence in the courtroom, the bench said it had not granted him permission or passed any order allowing him to argue his case in person.

Malik appeared in the top court when a bench headed by Justice Kant was hearing an appeal filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the September 20, 2022 order of a trial court in Jammu in the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union minister Mufi Mohammad Sayeed.

J&K declared top...

the compendium, six best practices adopted by the UT of JK were showcased in the compendium.

The six tales include: 'SWACHITA KARWAAN', Construction of Pink Toilets,

GOBARDHAN-Biogas plant at Suchetgarh, Soakage Pits for Greywater Management, Give Polythene Get Gold campaign and Sustainable and Zero landfill.

Each of these tales is indicative of how Jammu and Kashmir is working on multiple aspects of SBM-G simultaneously and in each of these areas efforts are being made to overcome barriers and bring about change by setting examples that can be replicated across the UT.

While Swachhata Karwaan was an attempt to grab the attention of the masses through IEC to foster behavioural change, the 'Give Polythene Get Gold' campaign was an innovative effort where an elected representative of a panchayat offered an award for those contributing to curbing the menace of Plastic.

Menstrual Hygiene has always been an area of concern that is rarely talked about in the open, the story on construction of Pink toilets depicted J&K's leap forward where the health and sanitation of women was given special care and importance. In the area of management of Biodegradable waste, GOBARDhan has been introduced in the UT by which villages in Jammu and Kashmir have now started converting cattle and organic waste into wealth .The UT's effort of constructing thousands of Soak pits to manage Grey Water was also recognized in the compendium.

The unique effort of the Government to ensure that the religious pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji Yatra, was a Zero landfill yatra, where all waste produced was collected and scientifically processed, was recognized as one of the transformative tales. Such recognitions reflect the commitment to excellence, and it indicates that the efforts and contributions have made a significant impact and have been recognized by a broader audience at national platform.

The UT of J&K has already achieved the goal of declaring all its villages as ODF plus. Six innovative tales chosen from the UT of J&K showcase the innovative approach, endeavour of the people and the efforts of the government to achieve the challenging task of making all village ODF Plus Model. This achievement has set a benchmark for others to aspire to and has contributed positively to the growth and development of nation.

Through this compendium, GoI has tried to highlight best practices adopted across the country in its mission to achieve health, cleanliness and sanitation and transform this campaign into a Jan Andolan. The activities and innovations highlighted in compendium aim to provide inspiration to villagers to replicate the same across the country. Union Minister, emphasized the importance of these tales in showcasing the positive changes taking place across India.

The conference was attended by senior officers from States/UTs, Mission Directors, in-charge Secretaries of JJM and SBM-G, corporates working in WASH sector among others. From J&K, Director of Rural Sanitation, Charandeep Singh, attended the conference.

Shetty Pay Commission...

w.e.f. 01.04.2003. A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohan Lal after hearing both the sides directed respondent No.1 to do the needful and provide benefit of recommendations retrospectively w.e.f 01.04.2003. The plea of respondent No.1 that the posts cannot be created retrospectively and are untenable in law, cannot be accepted. The creation of posts from retrospective date to comply with judgment of competent Court of jurisdiction is not unknown to service jurisprudence.

DB further ordered that the High Court as also the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs shall file their respective action taken reports in respect of aforesaid directions by or before the next date of hearing.

When the petition came-up for hearing, DB observed that in these petitions the petitioners essentially seek initiation of contempt proceedings against the respondents for non-compliance of the judgment dated 09.03.2016 passed by this Court in SWP No.53/2011.

The respondents i.e. High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, UT of Jammu & Kashmir have filed several compliance reports indicating the manner in which various recommendations made by the Shetty Commission have been implemented. On 10.04.2023, when these contempt petitions came up for consideration before this Court, it was noticed that respondent No.1 had taken a stand that the Union Territory of J&K had complied with the recommendations of the Shetty Commission, as conveyed by the Registrar General of this Court. This position asserted by respondent No.1 was disputed by Sunil Sethi, learned senior counsel, who submitted that there were some very important recommendations of the Shetty Commission, which were yet to be complied with by the respondents. Having regard to the rival stand of the parties, this Court vide order dated 10.04.2023, granted two weeks' time to the petitioners to file affidavit in rebuttal to the action taken report filed by respondent No.1. In compliance to the order dated 10.04.2023, the petitioners filed requisite affidavit indicating, inter alia., the recommendations of the Shetty Commission, which were yet to be complied with by the respondents. This Court vide order dated 19.04.2023 called upon the learned counsel appearing for the High Court and the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to file point-wise rebuttal to the affidavit filed by the petitioners. The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir through Mr. Rajnish Raina, Advocate and Department of Justice, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs through Monika Kohli, Sr. AAG have filed their respective affidavits in rebuttal.

DB further observed that from reading of the affidavits/action taken reports filed by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in terms of orders dated 19.04.2023, 12.05.2023 and 12.06.2023, it is abundantly clear that the respondents are yet to comply with recommendations of the Shetty Commission.

NIA raids absconding...

accused Kamruj Zaman was radicalized by Osama Bin Javed to join the HM and both received nine months of physical and weapon-handling training by HM cadres. Absconding accused Riaz Ahmad @ Hazari, an active militant and district Deputy Commander of the HM, along with another co-accused Mohammad Amin @ Jahangir Saroori, also an active militant and District Commander of HM, was involved in recruiting and training accused Kamruj Zaman and Osama Bin Javed in the forests of Kishtwar district of J&K.

After completion of training, Kamruj was directed to set up bases and hideouts, and select targets in U.P, Assam and other parts of India for terrorist activities. Accordingly, he had come to Kanpur where he had also carried out reconnaissance of a few targets.

CM Mann looking...

circumstances the visit of Chief Minister Mann to the flood affected areas was just a publicity stunt and for photo shoots. In the flood affected areas, people do not have drinking water, clothes, food items and the government is searching for its own photo sessions in the disaster. Punjab government is not able to help the people but also stopping those who help, he maintained.

Chugh said whether this disaster is man-made or not? The Bhagwant Mann government has strongly promoted the mining mafia, due to this excessive and unsafe and unnecessary mining changed the flow of rivers and created flood situation in the area. People of Punjab are suffering due to floods and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is engrossed in political tourism, he observed.

Chugh said the losses cannot be compensated but the government should at least provide Rs 5 lakh per family for house loss and Rs 50,000 to the farmers. Along with this, he has appealed to all the religious, social and social organizations of Punjab to come forward and serve humanity in this time of crisis. This has been the tradition of Punjab and Punjabis, he added.

Court takes serious...

Ram Janki Pracheen Mandir', Udhaywala, Jammu, stand illegally sold and leased out and the temple is now left with only 13 kanals of land. Unfortunately, this highly illegal and deplorable act is done by the custodians of the Mandir with the connivance of the Revenue Officials. Alas! those who were supposed to act as the saviours of the temple property, acted as its tormentors. This has happened in spite of the fact that the High Court in its judgment dated 04-10-1989, had categorically held that the land of the temple is not the personal property of the Bawa Ram Millan Dass, who has simply to act as its custodian.

Court further observed that the most unfortunate part is that the investigating officers by their sheer incompetence or on account of some reasons but known to them, shielded all those who were responsible for committing this brazen usurpation and illegal occupation of the land of the Mandir. Only 4 persons stand arrayed as accused in the case, out of which two were already dead, whereas dozens of persons, who were the real culprits in the case have been shielded and exonerated of their criminal liability on untenable and legally unsustainable grounds.

Court observed that this case is, in-fact, an eye opener to know as to how our so-called premier investigating agencies investigate the cases, which are entrusted with the solemn duty to expose the crime and criminals in the society. Though the investigating officer has conducted stark perfunctory investigation and made a sheer misadventure of interpreting and applying law wrongly by exonerating a number of the accused in the case. However, this court is not the post office of the prosecution to get blindly swayed by whatever bullshit they will present before the court in the name of the charge-sheet.

In fact, the Code of Criminal Procedure has very well addressed such an eventuality and empowers the Magistrates to direct further investigation in the case in terms of Sec. 156(3) Cr.PC, read with Sec. 173(8) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina directed SS.P, ACB, Jammu, to conduct further investigation in the case with the directions to identify all the sale and lease deeds executed in respect of the Mandir land whereby about 150 kanals of the said land have either been sold or leased out. Identify all executors of these sale/lease deeds and the beneficiaries in whose favour these deeds have been executed. Besides identifying the Revenue Officials who have in any manner, facilitated the registration of any such lease or sale deeds viz-a-viz by providing revenue extracts, recorded their mutations etc. in the revenue records.

Court further directed to ascertain as to how and in what circumstances the Power of Attorneys executed by Bawa Ram Millan Dass and his Chella, Damodar Dass, regarding disposal of the Mandir land, came to be registered when they were merely custodians and not the owners of the said land. This is so because these are the documents which paved the way for the illegal and fraudulent disposal of the Mandir land.

Court has also directed that the original applications moved by the executors of the sale/lease for obtaining the requisite revenue extracts be also seized and get the same scientifically examined in order to prove the signatures of the executors of these documents.

Court further said that these directions are just illustrative and not exhaustive in nature. The investigating officer shall be at liberty to unfold and address such other issues as well which will in any manner expose the alleged criminality committed and the perpetrators of the crime.

Court also directed that all said persons be identified with reference to their particular roles they have played in the commission of the alleged offences. After making the said exercise, their culpability will be fixed accordingly. Court ordered that the needful be done within a period of two months from the date of receipt of this order and the IO of the case has been directed to submit the status report in the investigation before this court after every ten days.

Jammu CB arrests...

Branch, Jammu from their home states in Haryana and Maharashtra, respectively, the spokesperson of the agency said.

He said both the accused were at large and constantly changing their locations to dodge the police to avoid their arrest for the last couple of years.

The official said Singh, a resident of Sirsa in Haryana, was booked in 2021 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for luring and duping unemployed youths on the pretext of arranging overseas jobs, while a case was registered against Bharanatti of Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) in 2020 for defrauding a complainant of lakhs of rupees.

The Crime Branch, Jammu has already filed a chargesheet in both the cases sometime back and the court had accordingly issued arrest warrants against the accused, the spokesperson said.

ACB arrests clerk...

the complainant alleging therein that he had applied for the post of Lumberdar Mohura in Tehsil Office Boniyar for which after qualifying the criteria laid down, he was declared successful candidate. He approached Tehsildar Boniyar, for the receipt of the appointment order," a statement issued here reads.

It further added that when complainant approached the office of the Tehsildar Boniyar, concerned Tehsildar advised him to contact his clerk Marefatul Haq. "He contacted said office clerk, said clerk initially demanded Rs 2,000 from the complainant as bribe for preparing and issuing his appointment order as Lumberdar Mohura," the statement said.

"Under compulsion, the complainant paid Rs 2,000 to the concerned clerk but still no appointment order was given to him. It was also alleged in the complaint that he keep on visiting the office of Tehsildar for issuance of appointment order in his favour but the concerned Clerk started demanded Rs 10,000 more from the complainant for preparation & issuance of appointment order," the ACB said.

The statement added that as the complainant did not want to pay any bribe to concerned, he under these circumstances approached Anti corruption Bureau with his complaint and requested for legal action against accused clerk for demanding bribe. "As the contents of complaint prima facie disclose the commission of offence punishable U/S 7 of the PC Act 1988 by accused public servant namely Marefatul Haq, clerk in the office of Tehsildar Boniyar, accordingly a Case FIR No. 06/2023 was registered at Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau Baramulla U/S 7 of the PC Act 1988 & the investigation were initiated," the statement added.

"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused clerk red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 10,000 from the complainant in Tehsil office Boniyar. He was arrested on the spot after completing all legal formalities. During his personal search suspicious bundles of currency amounting to Rs 64,500 was also recovered which was also seized as he fail to account for the source of the money recovered from his possession," ACB said, adding that further investigation in the case are going on and searches at the residence of the accused are being conducted at Chandilora, Tangmarg as well as at Hamdania Colony Bemina.

Protests in Rajouri after woman's death under mysterious circumstances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: A 26-year-old woman's death under mysterious circumstances in Rajouri district has sparked protests in the region with the aggrieved family members demanding strict action against the perpetrators.

The police on Saturday began inquest proceedings into the death.

According to police, the victim, Shazia Kouser, a resident of Pallulian, was brought to the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Rajouri on Friday, but was declared dead by doctors.

They said the victim's family members staged a protest outside the hospital in support of their demand for an inquiry into the circumstances leading to her death.

The protesters later dispersed after police and civil officers assured them justice.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Amritpal Singh said after the woman was declared dead, the accompanying attendants took the body to Pallulian for burial.

However, her father informed Police Post Rajouri city that his daughter died under suspicious circumstances, the officer said, adding that a police party rushed to the spot and shifted the body to GMC Hospital where a postmortem was conducted by the board of doctors Saturday morning.

"Inquest proceedings under section 174 CrPC have been initiated and further investigation is on," Singh added.

Greed for power overrode national interest under previous Govt: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that greed for power overrode national interest during the UPA government, wreaking havoc on the banking sector, but his dispensation has nursed it back to good financial health.

He also said that India is now among the countries with the strongest banking sectors following a series of measures taken by his government.

Addressing a Rozgar Mela after giving appointment letters to over 70,000 recruits virtually, Modi noted that a large number of them have been employed in the banking sector as he highlighted how it was "destroyed" under the previous Congress-led dispensation before his government took corrective measures.

He said that the "phone banking" scam was one of the biggest scams of the previous government as it broke the back of the banking system.

"The idea of phone banking was different for that government as loans of thousands of crores of rupees were given to favourites of some powerful leaders and families, and those loans were never meant to be returned, he said.

The UPA was in power during 2004-14.

His government, Modi asserted, took several measures, including strengthening the management of banks, merging small banks and injecting professionalism, to help the sector.

Public sector banks were earlier known for losses running into thousands of crores of rupees and non-performing assets (NPAs), but now they are known for record profits, the prime minister said.

He also praised banking sector employees for their hardwork and commitment to serve people and execute various government schemes to help the poor and unorganised sectors through loans under the 'Mudra' scheme and to support women self-help groups.

Modi said India has emerged as a centre of global trust and attraction and added that the country has to make full use of it. Opportunities are increasing in various fields, he said.

India is now counted among the countries with the strongest banking sector, he said, adding that it was not the case nine years back.

"There are many examples of the destruction which is caused when the greed for power overrides national interest. Our banking sector has suffered this destruction under the previous government," he told the young recruits.

Loans given to favourites were never really repaid during those times and one loan was sanctioned after another to clear previous dues on paper, Modi said.