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AC approves priorities...

levels and ranking was carried out on monthly basis, thereby generating a healthy competition amongst various wings of the Government. These initiatives, not only define the quality and quantity of departmental services to be ensured in a time-bound manner, but are also aimed at enhancing efficiency and productivity through greater inter-departmental convergence and coordination. Considering that the initiative was a success in propelling growth and development in the Union territory through transformative action in all areas, the Government decided to continue with the exercise of assigning deliverables to all the departments, this financial year. This financial year the list of deliverables broadly include approximately 1791 tangible targets. The exercise imparts clear direction to all departments regarding way forward and is unique to J&K. It merits mention here that J&K has emerged as a leader in many areas of governance and this unique initiative is bedrock of these changes.

SIU presents charge...

Srinagar: He had been identified as Farzan Ferooz, son of Ferooz Ahmed Mir, resident of Frestibal Pampore, who was transporting objectionable items with him in a blue bag on scooter and could not give any justification for carrying these items. Accordingly, a case FIR number 02/2023 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Kothibagh and investigation was set into motion. During the course of investigation, it was found that Feroz Farzan was transporting objectionable items like contraband heroin, Indian currency cash Rs 9,50,000, LeT terror outfit's letter pad pages and matrix sheet on the instance of LeT terrorist operating from Pakistan, namely Owais Ahmed Mir in order to conduct terrorist activities in UT J&K. The investigation also revealed that, a motorcycle, Pulsar 200, bearing registration number JK13H-2452 was found to be used in terrorist activities. Accordingly, the motorcycle was attached under Section 25 UA (P) Act. During further course of investigation, the search of absconding accused person was conducted and it was found that the accused, identified as Owais Feroz (active terrorist) son of Ferooz Ahmed Mir resident of Frestibal Pampore, presently at Pakistan is concealing himself in order to avoid arrest in the cases registered against him.

The report in this connection has been submitted to Court for initiation of proclamation proceedings against the accused person so that proceedings under section 82 and 83 CRPC could be initiated. The investigation of the case has been closed under Section 173 CRPC however, the involvement of other accused cannot be over ruled, therefore investigation will continue under Section 173(8) CRPC.

SCO must not...

been severely critical of the BRI as the project includes the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir. On Afghanistan, the prime minister said the situation there has a "direct impact on the security of all of us" and it is important to ensure that Afghan territory is not used to destabilise neighbouring countries or to encourage extremist ideologies. The prime minister also touched upon the global food, fuel and fertiliser crisis, highlighted the need for reform of the SCO and welcomed Iran as the new permanent member of the SCO. However, one of the major focus areas of his speech was combating the threat of terrorism.

"Terrorism remains a major threat to regional and global peace. Decisive action is necessary to meet this challenge. Terrorism may be in any form, in any manifestation and we have to fight together against it," Modi said. "Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of their policies; give shelter to terrorists. The SCO should not hesitate to criticise such countries. There should be no room for double standards on such a serious issue," he said.

The prime minister also strongly pitched for deeper mutual cooperation to deal with terror financing and noted that the SCO's RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure) mechanism has played an important role in this. "We should also take more active steps to prevent the spread of radicalisation among the youth of our countries. The joint statement being issued today on the issue of radicalisation is a symbol of our shared commitment," he said.

The virtual summit under India's presidency was attended by leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran as well. The prime minister also spoke of various global challenges. "The global situation is at a critical juncture. Food, fuel and fertiliser crisis is a big challenge for all the countries in the world surrounded by disputes, tensions and epidemics," he said, without making any specific references.

"Let us think together whether we as an organisation are capable of meeting the expectations and aspirations of our people? Are we able to meet the modern challenges," he asked. "Is the SCO becoming an organisation that is fully prepared for the future? In this regard, India supports the proposal for reform and modernisation of SCO," he said.

On the situation in Afghanistan, Modi said India's concerns and expectations regarding that country are similar to those of most of the SCO countries. Modi said ensuring humanitarian assistance to Afghan people, formation of an inclusive government, the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking and ensuring the rights of women, children and minorities in that country are "our shared priorities".

"The people of India and Afghanistan share age-old friendly relations. Over the past two decades, we have contributed to the economic and social development of Afghanistan," he said. "We have continued to send humanitarian aid even after the events of 2021. It is essential that the land of Afghanistan is not used to destabilise neighbouring countries, or encourage extremist ideologies," he said.

The prime minister also batted for boosting regional connectivity. "Better connectivity not only increases mutual business but also increases mutual trust. But in these efforts, it is essential to respect the basic principles of the SCO Charter, especially the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states. "After Iran's SCO membership, we can work for better utilisation of Chabahar

Port. The International North-South Transport Corridor can become a safe and easy way for the landlocked countries of Central Asia to reach the Indian Ocean," he said. "We should realise its full potential," he added.

India has been pushing for the Chabahar port project to boost regional trade, especially for its connectivity to Afghanistan. Modi also called for removing language barriers in the SCO. "We would be happy to share India's AI-based language platform, Bhashini, with everyone to remove language barriers within the SCO. This can become an example of digital technology for inclusive growth," he said.

Modi said the SCO can become an important voice for reform in other global institutions including the UN. The prime minister also welcomed Iran as the new member of the SCO. "At the same time, we welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Obligation for SCO membership of Belarus," he said. "Today, the interest of other countries in joining SCO is a proof of the importance of this organisation," he added.

"In this process, it is necessary that the basic focus of the SCO remains on the interests and aspirations of the Central-Asian countries," Modi said.

CRPF chief accompanies...

(ShriAmarnathji Yatra) security arrangements amidst his visit to Baltal, @sthaosen,DG @crpfndia, accompanied the up convoy from Bhagwati nagar. "He saw firsthand exchange of the convoy at Lamber, Banihal before proceeding ahead to Qazigund & Mirbazar camps (in south Kashmir)," it added. Meanwhile, the fifth batch of more than 6,500 Amarnath pilgrims left the Jammu city in the early hours for the twin base camps in Kashmir, officials said.

The officials said the pilgrim footfall at the shrine is likely to cross the 50,000 mark later in the day as the yatra is progressing smoothly, with devotees from across the country thronging the base camps to have a glimpse of the naturally formed ice-shivlingam and offer their prayers. A total of 6,597 pilgrims, including 1,429 women, 160 seers and 33 children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the valley in a convoy of 253 vehicles amid tight security arrangements in the early hours of Tuesday, they said.

The officials said 4,475 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 160 vehicles for the valley at around 4.10 am, while another convoy of 93 vehicles carrying 2,122 pilgrims was the first to leave for the Baltal base camp at 3.40 am. With this, a total of 24,162 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

LG greets people...

who taught the humanity importance of social justice, righteousness, compassion, peace and harmony. On this day, we should draw inspiration from his teachings and rededicate ourselves to the ideals of social equality and brotherhood as epitomised by Guru Hargobind Ji".

PSC holds maiden...

in these landscapes. The mitigation plan, biodiversity conservation plan and catchment area treatment plan are the different components of the comprehensive programme approved under the overall supervision and oversight of the Supreme Court, the official said.

The maiden meeting of the PSC, chaired by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force Roshan Jaggi, discussed in detail the cumulative financial allocation under different components, which will be spent in the next couple of years in accordance with the approved project activities. Jaggi, who is also chairman of PSC, highlighted the importance of timely implementation of the environment management plan (EMP), which has a direct bearing on the mitigation of environmental impact caused by the construction of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project.

Two Himachal youths...

deep waters and went missing around 4.15 pm, he said. The official said the police, along with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), launched a rescue operation to trace out the youths. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh prayed for the safety of the boys.

"Disturbed to learn about the unfortunate drowning of two boys Gagan Verma and Sahil Tandon at Porthu, Basohli in district Kathua. As informed by SSP Kathua Shivdev Singh, local Police, SDRF and local boating association divers are conducting rescue operation. Hoping for the best and praying for the safety of the boys," Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh tweeted.

Azad welcomes SC...

the provisions of Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas challenging the decision for hearing on July 11.

Azad highlighted the significance of the top court's attention to these petitions, emphasising his optimism for a favourable outcome. "After a long time, the Supreme Court has taken note of the petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370. I am hopeful about a positive outcome as I aspire for the restoration of full rights, which got annulled following the abrogation on August 5, 2019," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

Azad further emphasised the inclusive nature of Article 370, saying it benefits the people of all regions in Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

CS launches module...

a lot of manual labour and time will be saved. He said that it would ensure real time updation of records and whenever any new mutations are registered, it will auto update the records accordingly. He said that other states are being studied for putting in place the best system suited for the UT. Giving details about the digitisation of revenue records, Kabra said that digitisation of revenue records and scanning of Records of Rights has been completed for all districts of the UT. He said that digitisation of cadastral maps is going on smoothly and 92% of these have been completed till date.

The meeting was further apprised about the major activities like geo-referencing of digitized cadastral maps, digitization of backlog mutations, updation of maps and integration of the same with record of rights.

It was further given out that by completely switching to online updation of records on real time basis the same could be accessed by credit lending institutions and other government departments for extending credit and benefits to land owners under different beneficiary oriented schemes and programmes rolled out by the government from time to time.

Not right to...

but will be based on the merits of the case after thorough arguments and counter-arguments," the J&K BJP chief said. Nearly four years after the government abrogated Article 370 that bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud will take up for hearing on July 11 a batch of pleas challenging the decision.

Raina also said when Article 370 was revoked (in 2019), deliberations took place in both houses of Parliament.

"When Article 370 was initially implemented, extensive deliberations took place in the Constituent Assembly. Similarly, when it was eventually abrogated, detailed discussions were held in both houses of Parliament, resulting in amendments being carried out," Raina said.

Speaking on the issue of Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Raina cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on it and said the final decision would take the well-being of all individuals into account and reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive decision-making.

He highlighted that consensus and welfare would be the guiding principles in moving forward with the UCC, ensuring benefits for society as a whole. He also said Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has sought public views and suggestions on it.

Facilitate central deputation...



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presiding over the Annual Conference of Principal Secretaries GAD of States/UTs, at New Delhi on Tuesday.

changes to the service rules that seek to empower it to overrule states on matters related to the central deputation of bureaucrats. It also sought comments from the states and Union Territories on it.

States like West Bengal, Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan have objected to the proposed amendments.

Singh urged the state governments to facilitate central deputation of IAS and other all India services officers, a statement issued by the personnel ministry said.

Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS) are the three all-India services.

He called for following the practice of cooperative federalism in true letter and spirit.

The minister also asked the director of LBSNAA (Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration), Mussoorie, to sensitise, encourage and guide young officers to serve both at the state and central level "as IAS officers are the shared resource between the Centre and the states".

Singh said, the central deputation is part of the federal structure in the country and urged the state governments to cooperate with the central government to address the concerns in this regard.

He said an all-India service officer is an important interface of the government, both within the state as well as the Centre.

The minister said, the officers of all-India services form the backbone of Indian administration and it is important that concerted efforts are put in by the government of India and the state governments, to achieve the objectives of good governance through the effective implementation of governmental policies and programmes. Singh said, there is already a laid down structure for cadre management of all India services and the same needs to be followed in letter and spirit.

A particular aspect in this regard is the deployment of the all-India service officers at the Centre, the minister added.

Singh underlined that the central government, with the sole objective of weeding out the deadwood in order to maintain a high standard of efficiency and initiative in the state/Centre, carries out an intensive review of service records of members of the services which have been provided under relevant service rules.

The minister solicited the cooperation of the state governments in completing all such reviews pending with them expeditiously, under intimation to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Dwelling on 'Mission Karmayogi', Singh said, to get the best out of a government officer, he or she should be adequately trained and the central government has prepared effective training modules for officers' training.

He said the central government has also devised a module for state government officials, particularly those working at a cutting-edge level and urged the states to take its full advantage.

Singh said that the central government has taken initiatives to fill all the vacant posts under it in a mission mode and expressed hope that the state governments too would be undertaking similar exercises.

"While getting a government job remains a dream for every aspirant, the aspect of doing the job with integrity and devotion and living up to the expectations of the public attains equal significance, particularly in today's scenario," the minister said.

Singh said, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the officers get ample support to experiment with new ideas for policy formulation and added that that of the best innovative pro-people and pro-poor schemes like Swachh Bharat, JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) Trinity, Jal Jeevan, PM Kisan have been formulated since 2014 having a wider socio-economic impact.

He said, with the increased use of technology, transparency in administration has set in and that has led to the abolition of nepotism and vested interests.

Article 370 thing of past, no going back: Faesal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Days ahead of a scheduled hearing of a batch of pleas related to the abrogation of Article 370 before a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, IAS officer Shah Faesal on Tuesday said the constitutional provision is a thing of the past and there is no going back.

"(Article) 370, for many Kashmiris like me, is a thing of the past. Jhelum and Ganga have merged in the great Indian Ocean for good. There is no going back. There is only marching forward," Faesal wrote on Twitter.

A 2010-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Faesal was detained for more than a year after the provisions of Article 370 were abrogated and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Union territories in August 2019. He resigned from service and launched the Jammu Kashmir People's Movement, a political entity, in January 2019. The government, however, did not accept his resignation

and Faesal, who is also a doctor, was subsequently posted to the Union Ministry of Culture.

Faesal filed a petition in the Supreme Court in 2019, challenging the Centre's decision to scrap Article 370. In April 2022, the government accepted Faesal's application for withdrawing his resignation from service and reinstated him. The same month, Faesal filed an application in the court seeking the deletion of his name from the list of seven petitioners who had challenged the scrapping of Article 370.

Nearly four years after the government abrogated Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas challenging the decision for hearing on July 11.

According to a notice published on the apex court's website on Monday, the bench will take up the pleas for passing directions.

Press Council calls for entries for journalism awards

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Press Council of India (PCI) has invited entries from print journalists for the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

The entries have been invited from journalists,

Hope SC will expedite hearings on abrogation of Art 370: Omar

STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday hoped that the Supreme Court will expedite the hearings in the petitions challenging the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370 and reorganise the erstwhile state into two union territories.

Nearly four years after the government abrogated the provisions of Article 370 that bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will take up a batch of pleas challenging the decision for hearing on July 11.

freelancers and photo-journalists across eight categories such as rural journalism, developmental reporting, photo-journalism, single news picture, photo feature, best newspapers art: covering cartoons, caricatures and

illustrations, sports reporting/sports photo feature, financial reporting, gender issue reporting and reporting from a conflict area. The entries have to be submitted by August 18, the PCI said in a statement.

"It is better late than never. We have been eagerly waiting for this day. Hearings would start on July 11 and we hope that they would be expedited as soon as this case is addressed in the Supreme Court and a verdict will come out," Omar told reporters here, 25 kilometres from Srinagar.

The former chief minister said his party has no hopes from the BJP-led NDA government to restore the pre-August 2019 status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have been saying this from day one that whatever has been snatched from us on 5 August 2019, we shouldn't have any hope

from the present dispensation that they will bring that back to us. Our fight is long but in a peaceful manner and through democratic and constitutional ways. We want to get back whatever has been snatched from us," he added.

Answering a question on the recent political developments in Maharashtra, Abdullah said it was unfortunate but nothing new.

"This is very unfortunate but not a new thing, we have been witnessing this for the last few years. Hardly any state has been left where they (BJP) have not tried to break opposition, more or less every party has been targeted.

Free e-rickshaw service set up at Baltal base camp to ease Amarnath yatris' arduous journey

STATE TIMES NEWS

BALTAL: A Kanpur-based NGO has introduced free e-rickshaw services to make the final leg of the arduous journey of Amarnath Yatra comfortable for the pilgrims.

The e-rickshaws have been deployed to ferry pilgrims from Domail to the base camp at Baltal and vice-versa.

Having walked 24 km on mountainous terrain to and

fro to visit the Holy Cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, pilgrims are usually exhausted by the end of their journey.

After reaching the access-control gates at Domail, they have to walk another five km to reach the parking area of the Baltal base camp.

The battery-operated, environment-friendly e-rickshaws, deployed by NGO, come as a relief for

the pilgrims in that regard. While ponies are available for the purpose, the rides are chargeable. The e-rickshaw service, meanwhile, is free of cost.

Kanpur-based Shiv Sewak Samiti is one of the service providers of the e-rickshaw rides.

With the e-rickshaws, the distance, which otherwise takes about an hour, is covered in less than ten minutes.

Plantation drive conducted at Bn. Hqrs Reasi

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In view of summer season and to create more green cover in the premises of Bn. Hqrs, a special plantation drive got conducted on Tuesday at Bn. Hqrs. under the guidance/supervision of R.C Kotwal- CO IRP-1st Bn. Reasi. A large number of plants were planted by officers/officials of the Bn. The different types of plants planted today were donated by J&K Forest Deptt Reasi as a goodwill gesture to J&K Police.

As IRP-1st Bn. Reasi is situated in a Kandti terrain area where summer months are very hot and this plantation drive shall help create more green cover in the area. The plantation drive was organized under the supervision of Vikram Singh Janwal-SP (QM).

