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Bravery of Kargil...

the inhospitable terrain and conquered the enemy," the Lt Governor said. Sharing the inspirational stories of changemakers, the Lt Governor commended Ganderbal's Bilal Bhatt for his selfless service and awareness campaign on vital issues at the grassroots level in empowering citizens. Bilal Bhatt is seen as a beacon of hope and agent of change by the community members, he said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Keegam Youth Trust, an initiative by 180 youngsters from Shopian, for silently transforming Swachh Abhiyan into a Jan Abhiyan. With a strong grit and determination, these youngsters have managed to garner unprecedented support from the community, he added.

The Lt Governor made a special mention of Sandeep Singh Chib of Ramban who is on a mission to nurture promising boxers and inspiring the youth to chase their dreams and become champion along the way.

He extended his best wishes to Shariq Yasir of Kulgam, one of the youngest shining stars in J&K's sporting arena, for a stellar sporting career.

During this month's programme, the Lt Governor also shared the inspiring journey of Srinagar's first female e-rickshaw driver Kounsar Jan, Anita Devi from Rajouri, Pulwama's Rubina Bano and Kupwara's Shahida Khaliq.

Srinagar's first female e-rickshaw driver Kounsar Jan is rewriting the rules. Her unprecedented feat inspires others in breaking barriers and overcoming obstacles to pursue their dreams, the Lt Governor said.

He lauded the efforts of Anita Devi and her all-women self-help group, who have encouraged the women-related enterprises and steered change in Rajouri.

The Lt Governor highlighted the contribution of Rubina Bano of Pulwama in reshaping the entrepreneurial landscape in the district. He said the foray of Rubina Bano in the dairy sector is generating buzz among entrepreneurs.

Young librarian Shahida Khaliq is leaving a lasting impression on the youth of twin towns of Kupwara and Handwara. Her dedication would empower every citizen, especially the youth to enjoy the real fruits of education, the Lt Governor said.

The efforts of Retired Havildar Raj Kumar from Reasi towards environmental conservation, and the endeavour of Kashmir's Sabzar Ahmed and Syed Nadeem in providing necessary training to women from rural areas for entrepreneurship and empowering them as equal stakeholders in the UT's economy received a special mention from the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor highlighted the valuable suggestions received from Jammu's Ishtiaq Ahmed and Kulgam's Idrees Ahmed; Shabnam Singh from Kathua; Rayees Ahmad Bhat from Anantnag and Kathua's Radhika Mahajan pertaining to the segregation in waste collection and management, bringing behavioral change towards waste management, formulating anti-drug committee in the villages and urban wards and linking digital activism and women's empowerment.

He also assured necessary intervention on the suggestions received from Colonel B. D. Sharma from Jammu and Inspector Sohan Singh from Udhampur, on various strategies to promote literature on war heroes.

Drone found abandoned...

the officials said. Quoting preliminary investigation, they said the drone is not believed to have come from across the border but was flown by someone on the Indian side before losing its control.

Policeman dies after...

They said his colleagues rushed him to hospital where he was declared brought dead and added that he had suffered multiple gunshot wounds

Police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain whether Raj died of accidental discharge of the rifle or deliberate firing to commit suicide, the officials said.

Chhari Mubarak of...

camp here early morning to join the annual Amarnath pilgrimage in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The 52-day yatra commenced from the twin routes of Pahalgam in Anantnag and Baltal in Ganderbal districts on June 29.

So far, nearly 3.90 lakh pilgrims have paid their obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam.

The 24th batch of pilgrims, which also included 87 Sadhus and 15 Sadhvis, left Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a convoy of 123 vehicles around 2.55 am, amid tight security arrangements, the officials said.

While 1,960 pilgrims will take the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route for their yatra, 1,153 pilgrims have opted for the shorter but steep 14-km Baltal route, the officials said. The yatra will culminate on 'Shravan Purnima', coinciding with Raksha Bandhan on August 19. Last year, over 4.5 lakh pilgrims offered their prayers at the shrine.

All-party meet...

negotiate during the session, Representatives from the JD(U), a BJP ally, the BJD and the YSR Congress Party demanded the status for Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, respectively, at the meeting of 44 parties, including some having only one MP. Opposition RJD and BJP ally LJP (Ram Vilas) echoed the demand for Bihar.

Congress leader K Suresh told reporters that his party was joined by other INDIA bloc members in seeking the Lok Sabha deputy speaker's position for the opposition according to convention.

He said they also flagged the need for discussion in Parliament on a host of other issues, including the spate in terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, the Manipur situation, train accidents, unemployment and price rise.

The Congress flagged the issue related to alleged irregularities in the exams conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, whose chairperson resigned recently for reportedly personal reasons.

The stand of several opposition parties, including the Congress, the DMK and the AAP, made it all but certain that the political heat sparked by the Uttar Pradesh government's order asking eateries and carts selling eatables to display their owners' names on the route of kanwarias will reach Parliament when the session begins from Monday.

Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav alleged that the move is clearly targeted at Muslims and accused the ruling BJP in the state of pursuing communally divisive politics.

Suresh said Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi criticised the decision at the all-party meeting, while AAP's Sanjay Singh added that he also spoke on similar lines.

Singh said he raised the issue of misuse of central probe agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate, and accused the Narendra Modi government of targeting AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is lodged in the Tihar jail in the excise policy case.

He claimed that the Centre has been allocating only Rs 350 crore to Delhi for the past nine years and predicted that it will remain the same when the budget is tabled on July 23.

DMK's Tiruchi Siva slammed the government for its handling of medical entrance examination NEET and pressed for a discussion on the issue.

The government on its part asked opposition parties to not disrupt Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha proceedings, seeking their cooperation in running Parliament smoothly.

Rajnath Singh, Rijiju said, recalled the opposition's relentless protest during Prime Minister Modi's reply to the discussion in the Lok Sabha on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address during the previous session, and said such disruptions should not take place.

Fifty-five leaders, including the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha and BJP president J P Nadda, Congress' Jairam Ramesh, Union minister and LJP leader Chirag Paswan, attended the meeting.

The government invited all parties, including those having only one member, except Independents to the meeting, which lasted for over three hours.

The TMC was not represented in the meeting as the party was busy with its annual 'Martyrs' Day' rally in Kolkata on Sunday.

YSR Congress leader V Vijaysai Reddy alleged lawlessness in Andhra Pradesh following the formation of the TDP government there and demanded President's rule in the state.

Besides seeking special category status or a special package for Bihar, JD(U) leader Sanjay Kumar Jha sought the Centre's intervention to prevent annual floods in north Bihar due to the release of water from neighbouring Nepal.

BJD MP Sasmit Patra said after the meeting that his party will play the role of a strong opposition on the floor of the House.

Jairam Ramesh, who posted on X some of the points raised by different parties while attending the meeting, said in a post, "How the political climate has changed! In the all-party meeting of floor leaders, the BJD leader reminded the Defence Minister and BJP President JP Nadda that the BJP's manifesto for the 2014 assembly elections in Odisha had promised special category status to the state."

Ramesh later also said at the meeting, there was a universal demand for the Central Hall to be opened up again for MPs to mingle with each other.

The Budget session will have 19 sittings till August 12 when the government is expected to present six Bills, including the one to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft

Act, and also get Parliament's nod for the budget of Jammu and Kashmir, which is under central rule.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table the Economic Survey in Parliament on Monday and present the budget the next day.

DG BSF reviews...

arrival in Jammu on the prevailing security scenario.

The BSF Jammu IG briefed the DG about the crucial aspects of border security and the BSF's strategies for maintaining domination along the Jammu border; the spokesman said. The BSF DG, during his visit, also interacted with troops and commended their dedication and professionalism.

Six killed in...

respectively. Aslam's wife Shahida (40), sons Atif (10) and Raza (5), daughter Asiya (7) and sister Zareena (36) are undergoing treatment at the GMCH and their condition is "serious", the officials said.

In another accident, a Mahindra Bolero car with four members of a family rolled 200 feet down into a gorge at Bidda village in Reasi district at around 3:30 pm, resulting in the death of Guddi Devi and her daughter Shobha on the spot.

Devi's son Mukesh Singh, who was driving the vehicle, also succumbed to injuries at a hospital while his minor daughter was rescued and undergoing treatment at a hospital, the officials said.

J&K Judicial Academy...

(Jr. Division) through physical as well as virtual mode.

The training programme was inaugurated by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh as Chairperson of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, in presence of Rajiv Gupta, Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu who was resource person in the opening session of the first day.

Delivering his inaugural address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar highlighted the need and significance of the training programme in view of the coming into force of the three new criminal laws with effect from first of July 2024. He delved upon some of the salutary changes made in the relevant provisions for arrest, remand and bail.

Elaborating further, Justice Sanjeev Kumar highlighted the conflicting judgments of two coordinate benches of the Supreme Court in Anupam Kulkarni and Vikas Mishra's cases and consequent reference to the larger bench in B Senthil Balaji's case as to whether police could ask for police remand after initial fifteen days of arrest. He said that provisions of section 187 BNSS have now taken care of this question and as per new law, police can seek remand to police custody even after initial 15 days of arrest within the outer limit of first 60 days in offences punishable with death or imprisonment for life or 10 years and 40 days in other offenses.

He further emphasised that in every bail matter, court has the herculean task of balancing the conflicting interests of the three stakeholders; the accused who is facing the charge, the victim who is wronged and interest of the society at large in maintenance of rule of law for peace and harmony.

The first session was chaired by Rajiv Gupta, who gave a detailed overview of Provisions of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023(BNSS) governing arrest, remand and bail. The learned resource person discussed various principles governing remand to Police/Judicial Custody and those amended provisions for benefit of the participants.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Y.P. Bourney, was the resource person in the second session. He discussed that way back in the year 1994, in Joginder Kumar versus State of U.P. emphasised that arrest shouldn't be made simply because police have the power to do so. He added that in the constitutional scheme, paramountty is given to the liberty and power to arrest must be exercised only as a necessity. Therefore, any person facing accusation of being in conflict with law is first to invoke the bail jurisdiction of court, he added.

He emphasised the judicial approach in the light of precedents and guidelines including various judgments of the Supreme Court titled Siddharth vs. State of UP; Satender Kumar Antil vs. CBI, etc.

On Day 2, the working session was chaired by Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who discussed the role and responsibilities of Trial Judges in ensuring strict compliance with the provisions for arrest and remand by assessing independently the necessity to justify such an arrest before granting a remand and not to go simply by the claim of arresting officer as gospel.

Citing from his personal experiences at bar; both as prosecutor as well as defence lawyer; he discussed various provisions incorporated in the CrPC and now in BNSS. He exhorted upon the judicial officers to adopt a proactive approach and cut the delays by getting the unnecessary witnesses struck off after having a word with the prosecutor.

He further called upon the Judicial Officers to have a meeting with the prosecutor as well as defence lawyer before actual posting of a case for trial.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

Separatist leader Moulvi...

officials, also joined the party along with Mattu.

"My struggle has always been for the people who suffered due to misrule and lack of policies. Because of my courage to speak the truth and refusal to bow before the political figures responsible for the chaos, I have been subjected to torture and imprisonment through misuse of power.

"Today, it is crucial that people join the mainstream to serve the masses. For me, the PDP and its leadership have demonstrated that they truly stand for the aspirations of the people," Mattu said.

Heritage not just...

universality of heritage and said whenever one looks at historical sites, "our mind rises above current geopolitical factors".

India is hosting the key event of the UNESCO for the first time from July 21 to July 31.

Modi was joined on the dais by Director General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, among others.

Prior to the inauguration, the prime minister visited an exhibition at the Bharat Mandapam that showcases some of the artefacts brought back to the country. Till date, more than 350 artefacts have been brought back to the country, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on Saturday.

Wearing a saree, the director general of UNESCO was also present along with Modi during his visit to the exhibition.

In his address at the inaugural ceremony, the prime minister spoke of the exhibition and said the return of the ancient artefacts reflects global liberalism and a feeling of respect towards history.

He said the 46th WHC session is taking place in "one of the most ancient living civilisations of the world".

Modi also lauded the engineering feats that the ancient heritage sites represent, as he cited the Kedarnath temple in Uttarakhand and the Brihadishvara temple built by the Cholas.

"India's heritage is not just history; it is also science. In India's heritage, one also witnesses a glorious journey of top-notch engineering," he asserted.

The meeting is being attended by more than 2,000 delegates from over 150 countries.

The WHC meets once a year and is responsible for managing all matters pertaining to world heritage sites and deciding on sites to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Underlining the significance of heritage, the prime minister said, "Heritage is not only history; it is a shared consciousness of humanity. Whenever we look at historical sites, our mind rises above current geopolitical factors."

Modi encouraged people to "use this potential of heritage for the betterment of the world and use our heritage to connect hearts".

"It is India's clarion call to the world to come together to promote each other's heritage and amplify the spirit of human welfare, encourage tourism and create more job opportunities through the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting," he said.

PM to attend...

Modi would be visiting the memorial on July 26 and attend the 25th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Divas.

The meeting discussed security and reception at the Drass helipad, necessary arrangements for his motoreade, the procedure for the wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial, interaction with war widows and preparation of the green room at the helipad, the spokesman said.

He said the Lt Governor inquired from the General Officer Commanding of 8 Mountain Division, Major General Sachin Malik, about the arrangements at the Drass brigade helipad.

Mishra directed officers concerned to complete all necessary arrangements in a timely manner; the spokesman said.

The LG would visit the Kargil War Memorial on July 24 to inspect the arrangements, he said.

Maj General Malik said the prime minister would land at Drass Brigade Helipad on the morning of July 26 and be received by army officials.

He said Modi would take rest in the green room before departing for the Kargil War Memorial.

Major Gen Malik also informed that the prime minister would participate in the wreath-laying ceremony followed by a visit to the 'Shaheed Marg' (Wall of Fame).

He said Modi would sign on the visitors book and inspect the museum of Kargil War artefacts.

Major Gen Malik informed that Modi will also sit for the briefing on the Kargil War followed by a group photograph.

The prime minister would also interact with 'Veer Naris' (War Widows) and visit the Veer Bhoomi, he said, adding he would inaugurate the 'Shinku La Tunnel' virtually.

Maj Gen Malik said the Special Protection Group (SPG) team will arrive on July 23 and conduct a meeting to coordinate with the Army, police and civil administration.

Spike in terror attacks...

because this election is taking place on the orders of the Supreme Court which has set a deadline of September 30.

"You say in the Supreme Court the situation is not conducive for holding assembly polls and we are bowing before the forces who over the past (three) years martyred our 55 bravehearts. If you want to ignore and waste their sacrifices, we will bear the decision silently as there is nothing else we can do," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a public rally at Gurha Slathia in the Samba district.

He said there are such forces across the neighbouring country, which do not want friendly ties between the two countries.

"We know they won't desist from their activities but somehow we were also found off-guard," he said, criticising delay in the joint high-level meeting held in Jammu on Saturday to chalk out a strategy to tackle growing terror incidents.

Omar said the meeting should have been called a long time after the first terror incident. "Why he waited for so long? It was only after we started raising the concern, the meeting was convened," he said.

Earlier, addressing a gathering, Omar said, "We have to face these forces bravely but this is not expected under their rule."

CS reviews progress...

districts and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took progress report from each Deputy Commissioner regarding establishment of KKG in their respective districts. He directed them to establish all the required IT infrastructure at the designated sites at the earliest so that these centres can be made functional before the launch of KKG Software cum portal.

The Chief Secretary called upon all DCs to notify the list of Krishni Udhyamis well in time so that the KKGs can be made functional by the designated time of first week of August.

Dulloo highlighted that the Kisan Khidmat Ghars, envisioned as farmer service centers, aim to revolutionize agricultural support mechanisms by providing a range of essential services under one roof. He added that these centers are poised to become pivotal hubs offering farmers access to agricultural inputs, information on modern farming techniques, market linkages and government schemes.

The Chief Secretary underlined that establishment of KKGs is an innovative and remarkable step particularly for the farming community, who will have one stop solution for all of their grievances and issues in these centres. He remarked that KKG initiative is part of the government's broader strategy to empower farmers, enhance agricultural productivity and improve rural livelihoods in Jammu and Kashmir. He added that KKGs will play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between farmers and essential services, thereby promoting sustainable agricultural practices and economic growth in the region.

Highlighting this as a niche project under HADP scheme, the Chief Secretary called upon all the Deputy Commissioners to work tirelessly towards successful roll-out of these centers for the benefit of every farmer in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was informed by the BISAG team about the progress achieved regarding the roll out of KKG Software cum portal across Jammu and Kashmir. They informed that this system would have innate characteristics of farmer registration, sale of agricultural inputs, scheme on boarding mechanism, advisories, skilling, expert consultation, digital marketing, decision support and developing of smart phone applications.

Besides, the Deputy Commissioners also apprised the Chief Secretary of the progress achieved in their respective districts about establishment of KKGs.

BJP slams Mamata for offering shelter to people from violence-hit Bangladesh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Sunday slammed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for offering shelter to anyone coming in distress from Bangladesh and called it an "evil plan" of the INDIA bloc to settle illegal immigrants from the neighbouring country to Jharkhand to win elections.

BJP co-incharge for West Bengal Amit Malviya also questioned Banerjee's authority to offer shelter to anyone coming from other country, saying immigration and citizenship are exclusively in the Centre's domain, and that states have no locus-standi in such matters.

This came after the West Bengal chief minister said at a Kolkata rally that in the wake of the escalating violence in Bangladesh, she would keep the doors of her state open for people in distress from the neighbouring country and offer them shelter.

Banerjee referred to the United Nations Resolution on refugees as justification for her stand over the possible humanitarian crisis that may emerge on account of the severe law and order breakdown that has gripped Bangladesh over the past few days.

Reacting sharply to Banerjee's remarks, Malviya wrote in a post on X, "Who gave Mamata Banerjee the authority to welcome anyone in India? Immigration and citizenship are exclusively in the Center's domain. The States have no locus-standi."

"This is part of I.N.D.I Alliance's evil plan to settle illegal Bangladeshis from Bengal to Jharkhand, so that they can win elections," the BJP leader charged.

Hitting out at Banerjee, Malviya further said on odd days, she says she will not allow Hindu refugees, who came to India to escape religious persecution, to apply for citizenship under CAA and get their legitimate rights.

If they insist, she will ask "illegal Rohingyas, who vote for the TMC, to burn trains, block roads and kill people", he alleged. On "even days" she says Bangladeshis are welcome to India, the BJP leader added.

Sharad Pawar 'sargana' who institutionalised corruption: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PUNE: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday termed NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar as the "sargana" (ringleader) who institutionalised corruption in the country and accused Rahul Gandhi of being "arrogant" despite Congress losing elections on three occasions.

Addressing the BJP's state convention in Pune, Shah dubbed Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray "the head of the Aurangzeb fan club" who was sitting with people who sought pardon for 1993 Mumbai serial blasts convict Yakub Memon.

He said Rahul Gandhi's arrogance will be crushed after BJP wins upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand.

"If there is the biggest 'sargana' of corruption in Indian politics, it is Sharad Pawar. There is no confusion in my mind about this. I am saying it openly that Pawar has institutionalised corruption in the country," Shah said as he accused the veteran politician of doing nothing for the country's welfare and Maharashtra when he was in power.

Taking a swipe, Shah said the BJP allotted reservation to Marathas when it helmed Maharashtra (under Devendra Fadnavis) whereas whenever Sharad Pawar's government comes to power, the Maratha quota disappears.

He said the Mahayuti government must come to power to ensure the reservation for Marathas stays.

This is Shah's first visit to Maharashtra after the BJP suffered severe drubbing in the recent Lok Sabha elections where the party's tally tumbled to 9 from 23 seats it had won in 2019.

Attacking the Shiv Sena (UBT) chief, Shah said, "Uddhav Thackeray is sitting with those who sought clemency for 1993 Mumbai serial blasts convict Yakub Memon."

"Who is the Aurangzeb fan club? Those who serve biryani to (26/11 terror attack convict) Kasab, those who seek pardon for Yakub Memon, those who give (controversial Islamic preacher) Zakir Naik a messenger of peace award and those who support the (banned Islamist outfit) PFI. Uddhav Thackeray should be ashamed of sitting with these people," Shah said.

In a scathing speech, Shah also targeted Rahul Gandhi for his "arrogance" despite the Congress party's consecutive losses in the Lok Sabha elections.

