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NIA raids 8...

in Indian territory near the International Border in the Samba Sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

"These weapon consignments were being further supplied to TRF terrorists in Kashmir for the execution of terrorist attacks on minorities, migrants and security forces," NIA added.

The NIA claimed to have seized various incriminating material and digital devices as well as documents during these searches.

The case was initially registered at Rajbagh police station in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir and the NIA registered the case on July 30.

One accused, belonging to Jammu, made revelations that a Pakistani prisoner/handler Mohd Ali Hussain alias Qasim has been instrumental in drone droppings and is the main operative of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Al Badr.

He was then brought before the court on production from Jail and subsequently police remand was taken.

Police said during sustained questioning, the accused confessed to his role in the Arnia weapon drop case and also disclosed two locations where the arms and ammunition dropped by drone had been concealed.

In order to recover the weapons, a police team, along with the magistrate concerned went to the spot one after the another.

India-China relationship...

Sri Lanka, a nation of 22 million, is in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis that has led to severe shortages of fuel and other essentials. The Sri Lankan government is negotiating with the IMF for a bailout package.

"Any help we can give to Sri Lanka at the IMF that we will naturally do," Jaishankar said.

On the issue of Rohingya refugees, he said the issue has been discussed with Bangladesh. "What matters for them is repatriation. We have been supportive of Bangladesh," he said.

Currently, Bangladesh is hosting more than 1 million Rohingya refugees, who fled Myanmar following a military operation against them a few years ago.

Responding to another question, Jaishankar dismissed criticism for importing discounted Russian oil, saying India is not the only oil importing country.

The US and European nations have imposed heavy sanctions on Russia since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine on February 24.

India has raised oil imports from Russia after the Ukraine war despite criticism from the west and continues to engage with Moscow for business.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on Tuesday, co-chaired the 9th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting with his Thai counterpart and Deputy Prime Minister Don Pramudwinai on Wednesday during which they discussed advancing bilateral contacts in political, economic, security and defence, connectivity and health domains.

13 IAS, IRS...

Civil Aviation Department and Civil Aviation Commissioner, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, IAS (AGMUT:2005), Commissioner/Secretary, Revenue Department, shall also hold the charge of Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Sarmad Hafeez, IAS (AGMUT:2009), Secretary, Tourism Department, shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Doifode Sagar Dattatray, IAS (AGMUT:2014), OSD in the J&K Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara; Devansh Yadav, IAS (AGMUT:2016), Managing Director, J&K Trade Promotion Organization, holding additional charge of Managing Director, J&K IT Infrastructure Company and Managing Director, JKI Limited, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; Basharat Qayoom, IAS (JH:2016), Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid, IAS (AM:2017), Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Budgam; Khalid Jahangir, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization.

Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, Budgam has been trans-

Seminar held on communal harmony & national integration



Organisers and others during the seminar.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NOWSHERA: A seminar on communal harmony & national integration was held at village: Seri near border area which was arranged by the Lekh Raj Raina social activists of the area and Organizer of Peace & Harmony under the Chairmanship of Sarpanch of the area

Ramesh Chowdhary, Panchayat Halqa Deeing Seri as Chief Guest and Retd. ZEO Sh. Jodha Ram of Seri was Guest of Honour. Chief Guest and other speaker also stressed that communal harmony is root of National Integration.

Historic Sankri Devta Mela from August 23, arrangements discussed

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: To discuss the arrangements for the smooth conduct of 3-day historic Sankri Devta mela commencing from 23rd of August 2022 in village Meer of Block Panchari in district Udhampur, a meeting of district officers of different departments was held today under the chairpersonship of Additional District Development Commissioner, Anu Behl, here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

Detailed discussions were held on the arrangements including security, sanitation, health care, transport, traffic management, drinking water and power supply, checking of rates of important commodities etc.

While addressing the meeting, the ADDC directed all the district officers to work in coordination for finalizing necessary arrangements and also added that all the arrangements must be put in place well before the com-

mencement of the Mela. She urged the local mela committee members to come forward in making the mela a grand success as public participation is of great importance in promoting tourism and economy of the area.

Executive Engineer PHE was asked to make adequate arrangements regarding drinking water supply at the mela site, while Executive Engineer PDD was directed to provide uninterrupted power supply during the mela days. Executive Engineer PMGSY & PWD were directed to ensure filling up of all the potholes and asked them to take up the work of repair of the road at the earliest.

Regarding providing First aid facilities at the mela site, the ADDC directed the Chief Medical Officer to deploy a team of doctors and an ambulance for the same. It was decided in the meeting that the Information Department would provide a Public address system (PAS) and would cover the whole event.

Horticulture Department holds awareness camp in Nowshera to promote fruit plantation

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Department of Horticulture Jammu is making concerted efforts to generate awareness among the farming community about plantation of fruit crops and the monsoon season. In this series, Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of District Rajouri and chaired an awareness camp cum interaction programme at Panchayat Seri of Nowshera zone.

Chief Horticulture Officer Rajouri, Madan Lal Tak and other officers besides a large number of farmers including women, sarpanches and PRI members of the area participated in the camp.

Addressing the large gathering of farmers, fruit growers, the Director stressed the

need to encourage High Density Plantation in the area and adopt cluster approach to establish new orchards. The department is providing all assistance to the farmers and they should take all the benefits of the centrally and UT sponsored schemes of the department. He urged farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields and avail the benefits on different components viz: Bore Well, water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, vermicompost units, protected cultivation, tools & implements etc. for upliftment of their socio- economic status.

The Director also inaugurated a one month training programme on fruit and vegetable preservation at village Narian of Doongl block for women. He impressed upon

the women participants to come forward, adopt fruit and vegetable preservation as a profession and establish new preservation and dry fruit processing units with the financial assistance from the department as the govt. is very keen to promote this sector and it will not only provide employment, but also play an important role in enhancing the family income. He also held discussions with the PRI members/ farmers gave a patient hearing to the demands raised by them and assured them of every possible help from the department.

Earlier, Chief Horticulture Officer Rajouri welcomed the Director Horticulture and apprised him about the works going on in the field under different departmental schemes. He briefed the

farmers about the various departmental schemes and said that the border areas of Rajouri district have huge potential for horticulture crops due to diversity in agro climatic conditions.

Later, the Director kick-started plantation drive at multiple locations by planting Mango and Citrus plants in the compact farmer's field at village Kangri of Sunderbani tehsil and Seri of Nowshera zone. He also visited Thannamandi area and inspected the Modified Ultra High Density plantation of apple trees.

Besides Chief Horticulture Officer, Jyoti Parsad DL-SMS (pom.), Sunil Mahnoori MCC, Shafqat khan DHO and HDOs, Arun Kumar and Darvinder Kumar also accompanied the director during the visit.

Verma chairs 3rd BoDs meeting of JKFDCL

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment (FE&E) Department, Sanjeev Verma on Thursday chaired the third Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of J&K Forest Development Corporation Limited (JKFDCL) at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, the Board reviewed the implementation of decisions taken in the previous board meetings and the members stressed on the need for transparency and efficiency in conduct of business.

While reviewing the overall functioning of the Corporation, the Chairperson of the board, Sanjeev Verma appreciated the efforts of the Forest Department in supporting the activities of the Forest Corporation, especially for the significant increase in markings handed over in 2021-22.

The board also took note of the Audit reports of the

erstwhile J&K State Forest Corporation for the year 2020-21 and took on record the changes among Directors.

Among others, the BoDs meeting was attended by Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary Tribal Affairs Department; Vasu Yadav, Managing Director, J&K FDCCL, Director General Codes and representatives from Rural Development Department and Industries & Commerce Department.

Settlement of audit paras of SDD reviewed

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Department of Skill Development Department (SDD) has got 1093 out of 1259 audit paras cleared, hence leaving only 166 paras for perusal.

This was revealed on Thursday at a meeting chaired by Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon to review the settlement of audit para's pending with the office of Principal accountant General J&K (Audit) in respect of the Department.

While reviewing the settlement of audit paras in ITIs and Polytechnics of Jammu

and Kashmir, Dr Samoon congratulated the officers for this achievement and said that we build on this achievement and take steps to prevent piling of audit paras in future. He said that to enhance the quality of audit compliance, the officers need to play a more active role in the resolution of audit paras.

Most of the paras that have been cleared were old outstanding paras some of which were pending from the last two decades.

He further passed on specific directions to the concerned officers for clearing the pending 166 paras of the

department by the end of this month. For effective compliance of audit paras, Dr Samoon suggested that regular meetings be held to ensure timely replies to audit paras which will in turn make the resolution process of audit paras more efficient and convenient. He also directed the officers to visit the ITIs and Polytechnics to get a first hand appraisal of the different audit paras and take action accordingly.

During the meeting various issues came up for discussion and committees were constituted to submit reports for future course of action.

Inspector General of Registration, J&K;

Rayees Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Law Officer presently posted in the office of Chief Conservator of Forest, Kashmir has been transferred and posted in the District Litigation Office, Kulgam. He shall also lookafter the work in the District Litigation Office, Shopian, in addition to his own duties till further orders; and Waseem Mohd Dar, Assistant Law Officer presently posted in the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir holding additional charge of the office of Conservator of Forest, North Circle Sopore has been transferred and posted in the office of Pollution Control Board, J&K. He shall also lookafter the litigation work of the Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing Department.

Sohil Mir, Assistant Law Officer presently posted in the office of Service Selection Board, Jammu holding additional charge of the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest J&K has been transferred and posted in the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, J&K on full time basis; and Anjad Hassan Wani, Assistant Law Officer presently posted in the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir has been transferred and posted in the office of Chief Conservator of Forest, Kashmir.

Govt blocks 8...

completely false and sensitive from the perspective of national security and India's friendly relations with foreign States," the statement said.

It said that the content blocked by the Ministry was found to be detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of the country, security of the State, India's friendly relations with foreign states, and public order.

Accordingly, the content was covered within the ambit of section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the statement said.

Since December last year, the government has issued directions for blocking 102 YouTube-based news channels and several other social media accounts.

Impressive 'Shobha Yatra'...

of people while flower petals were also showered on the Holy Rath.

Thousands of devotees comprising prominent citizens, politicians and heads of social and religious organizations participated in the Shobha Yatra. Members of Muslim brethren also accorded a rousing reception to the Yatra enroute.

Adv Ajay Gandotra, in his message, felicitated people on Shree Krishna Janmashtami and prayed that this auspicious occasion would be the harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the celebration of festivals, which are an important part of our glorious heritage, strengthens communal harmony and brotherhood and reinvigorates the secular ethos. He prayed for peace and the well-being of the people of the Union Territory.

Tight security arrangements were ensured by the UT administration across the city for the smooth conduct of Shree Krishna Janmashtami celebrations. During the Shobha Yatra various senior police officers also marked their presence to make arrangements robust and incident-free. Heavy rush of devotees was witnessed at the historical Raghunath Ji temple where people made long queues to participate in "Pooja" and other holy rituals. Trust's President expressed gratitude to the DIG of BSF, Surjeet Singh Sekhon and SSP Jammu for arranging BSF Band and Police Band respectively on this auspicious occasion in the temple premises.

Farooq calls for...

political parties in the Union Territory and invited them to join the meeting.

"The party president spoke to all mainstream parties, except the BJP" the spokesman added. "Dr Farooq Abdullah has invited leaders of all political parties for a meeting to discuss the recent announcement by the J&K govt regarding inclusion of non-locals in the voter lists. He personally spoke to the leaders & requested them to attend the meet at 11 AM on Mon, 22nd Aug," the NC said in a tweet. Meanwhile, the party in a statement said Abdullah has invited leaders of all major political parties, except the BJP, for the meeting at his Srinagar residence. The statement said the NC president has personally spoken to PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, J-K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Waqar Rasool, JKPCC working president Raman Bhalla, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari, Peoples Conference chairman Sajjad Ghani Lone and leaders of the Aam Admi Party here.

Abdullah requested the leaders to attend the meeting to formulate a common position on the issue of the inclusion of non-local voters, the statement said.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Hirdesh Kumar said the Union Territory is likely to get around 25 lakh additional voters, including outsiders, after the special summary revision of electoral rolls being held for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370.

Integration of Employment Portal with NCS Portal inaugurated

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Labour & Employment (L&E) Department, Sarita Chauhan on Thursday inaugurated the integration of the Employment Portal of J&K with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal at Civil Secretariat here.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary stressed upon the officers to reach out to the unemployed youth and inform them about the benefits of this initiative as it will boost employment avenues for them and enhance their career opportunities at UT, National and International levels. On the occasion, Director Employment, J&K, Nisar Ahmad Wani gave a brief introduction on Integration of J&K Employment Portal with National Career Services

Portal and the benefits that may be available to unemployed youth from it.

V.S. Pathania, Technical Director/Scientist-E, NIC Jammu on the occasion also gave a Power Point Presentation about the objectives, features and services provided to job seekers of JK UT through this integration.

Among others, Special Secretary L&E Department, Additional Secretary, L&E, Deputy Director, Employment, J&K, district officers and other concerned officials of the department also attended the launch ceremony both in person and through video conferencing.

Pertinently, this integration will provide access to youth of J&K towards vacancies at pan India level and also provides opportunities to participate in National / U.T. level Job fairs.