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J&K leads in...

J&K Nationalist People's Front expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for the efficient grievance redressal mechanism established in J&K through JK-IGRAMS and LG's Mulaqaat, and the effective measures taken to uproot corruption from J&K.

The Lt Governor said the grassroots democracy in J&K has been empowered by the implementation of 73rd and 74th amendment of the constitution, and transfer of Funds, Functions, and Functionaries to the PRIs and Urban Local Bodies.

"PRI representatives are key stakeholders in holistic and equitable development. They are playing a major role in reaching out to the last person in queue with all the benefits of the government schemes and it clearly shows in our path breaking achievements in the last two years," Lt Governor said.

The District Capex Budget has been substantially increased in the last two years. We have minimised human interface in availing various government services for citizens, he added.

Earlier, the members of the delegation including Ch Abdul Hamid, Chairperson, Sarpanch Coordination committee and Sarfaraz Mattu put forth the various issues and demands pertaining to better functioning of three-tier Panchayati Raj System in J&K.

The Lt Governor also received memorandums from the PRI representatives and assured them of appropriate redressal of the issues and demands of their respective areas on merit.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Akhil Bharat Rachanatmak Samaj, comprising its National President Bibhuti Kumar Mishra; General Secretary, Rajendra Deshpande, Adv. Ramesh Jain, Col VS Verma, Bishwanath Jha, Sanaullah Tamiri President ABRSS, J&K, besides others also called on the Lieutenant Governor and apprised him about the role, aim and functions of the organisation dedicated to work for peace, brotherhood and harmony in the society.

The Lt Governor was also informed about various initiatives of the organisation for spreading the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave, besides other youth-oriented programmes.

The Lt Governor urged the members of the organisation to continue their endeavours for the welfare of the society.

Grenade attack on...

Singh said, "A grenade blast has occurred near the premises of police post Ind, which falls in the jurisdiction of police station Gool".

Earlier, police sources had said that a crude bomb had been hurled at the police post. The ADGP said the Jammu Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) has claimed responsibility for the attack in a letter.

The special operation group (SoG) and Army teams have been mobilised for cordon and search operations, the ADGP said.

An alert has been sounded in the district and a case registered.

PPCPA cell to...

and Development Department, and Administrative Secretary, Law Department participated in the meeting.

The Chief Secretary also approved the engagement of consultants and domain experts, besides approving the financial grant of Rs. 90 lakh for the functioning of the new PPCPA cell.

Dr. Mehta advised the Planning Department to seek guidance and support of the NITI Aayog for streamlining the functioning of the PPCPA cell and making it more efficient, systematic and result-oriented.

It was informed that the new cell will comprise experts from the fields of urban development, procurement, support personnel, planning, housing, transport, industry, tourism, social sector, finance, and environment, among others.

The new cell will assist government departments in framing projects to be taken up on Public Private Partnership mode; get viability gap funding under various PPP schemes of the Government of India; carry out cost-benefit analysis; and monitor internal rate of return/ return of investment of the project.

The PPCA cell will further provide assistance in the preparation of pre-feasibility reports and development of detailed project reports; recommend appropriate regulatory policy framework for creation, administration and monitoring of project development; coordinate with relevant stakeholders/departments/agencies; serve as repository of all information including best practices, guidelines, schemes, PPP projects; and undertake demand assessment and feasibility studies in Jammu and Kashmir.

No new levy...

"...every state had one or the other tax on all these items," she said and cited taxes on items like pulses, flour, buttermilk, and paneer.

The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament has witnessed several disruptions by the opposition after GST was imposed on several pre-packed and labelled essential items.

The minister said all states at the last GST Council meeting held at Chandigarh had agreed to the proposal to levy 5 per cent GST on pre-packed, labelled food items.

Not one person (state minister) spoke against the GST during the meeting, she added.

Sitharaman stressed that taxes have not been levied on food items consumed by the poor, as the GST has not been imposed on items that are sold loose.

While the minister was referring to a tax on a food item in West Bengal in the pre-GST era, TMC party leader Derek O'Brien tried to raise a point of order and later his party staged a walkout.

Sitharaman also clarified there is no GST on crematoriums, but the tax is only on the construction of a new crematorium.

Also, there is no GST on hospital beds or ICUs, but only on rent of Rs 5,000 per day in a hospital.

No GST on...

misconceptions," the minister said.

She specifically explained the GST issues around bank chequebooks and cash withdrawals. On the opposition's claims of burdening people by imposing GST on cheque books, she said the levy is in relation to purchase of cheque books by bans from printers, not for the public. "I want you to kindly take into cognizance that as regards the consumer or the bank client who takes the money, withdraws the money, there is no charge on him," Sitharaman said. She also informed the MPs about the number of free cash withdrawals allowed by banks from ATMs.

Taliban under scrutiny...

The strike early Sunday shook awake Shirpur, once home to historic buildings bulldozed in 2003 to make way for luxury homes for officials in Afghanistan's Western-backed government and international aid organisations. After the US withdrawal in August 2021, the Taliban elite began taking some of the abandoned homes there.

The house where al-Zawahri stayed was the home of a top aide to senior Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani, according to a senior US intelligence official. Taliban officials blocked AP journalists in Kabul from reaching the damaged house on Tuesday.

The UN Security Council was informed by monitors of militant groups in July that al-Qaida enjoys greater freedom in Afghanistan under the Taliban, but confines itself to advising and supporting the country's new rulers.

A report by the monitors said the two groups remain close and that al-Qaida fighters, estimated to number between 180 to 400, are represented at the individual level among Taliban combat units.

Approval accorded to...

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Commissioner JMC, (Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City), Rahul Yadav; Director Archives Archaeology and Museums, J&K; VC JDA, Pankaj Magotra, Chief Engineers of JPDC, PWD besides senior functionaries of Project Management Consultancy (PMC) and other board members.

The CEO gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the project and listed the agenda points for discussion and proposed different projects for approval under Smart City.

While discussing agenda points, the Div Com called for expending the process for early floating of tenders of remaining Smart City projects.

The Div Com stressed that tenders to be floated within a fixed time frame for all the projects so as to ensure their early completion.

While reviewing the progress on ITMS and BEL Project, the Div Com and ADGP took note of delay in implementation and directed the CEO, JSCL to constitute an internal Committee and resolved all the issues and ensure better execution of the project.

The Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has signed a contract agreement with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for setting up the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) including ITMS and Web GIS integration. Under the project Smart Jammu App is under preparation and will be ready soon for launch.

Reviewing status of Blue Green Project, Div Com asked official to clear all the bottlenecks and complete the project in time frame.

Under the project the work is being done on improving access to the park, parking for 29 Vehicles, Seating spaces as well as Designated Hawkers space creation.

The Div Com stressed on floating of the tenders for all the projects in stipulated frame to ensure early start and completion of works.

While reviewing the progress on ITMS and BEL Project, the Div Com and ADGP took serious note of delay in implementation and directed the CEO, JSCL to constitute an internal Committee and resolve all the issues to facilitate smooth execution of the project.

It was informed that the Board has approved the recruiting of more professional manpower including in the engineering wing, technical officers etc for better implementation and supervision.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also stressed the need to speed up ongoing projects for their timely completion.

Sinha performs Amarnath...

Sinha appealed to intending Amarnath pilgrims to visit the holy cave shrine before August 5, in view of a forecast of inclement weather and more rains after that.

The annual Amarnath Yatra will officially conclude on August 11.

"Over three lakh devotees from across the country have had Baba's darshan. Because of rising temperatures, Baba doesn't have that form, and the nature is also not supporting it.

"There has been heavy rainfall in many areas. I would like to request the devotees across the country, who are yet to have darshan, to come before August 5 as more rains are predicted after that," Sinha said.

The LG was speaking to reporters here after performing pooja of the Chhari Mubarak -- the saffron robed holy mace of Lord Shiva -- at Akhara Building on the occasion of Nag Panchami.

Notably, 15 pilgrims lost their lives and 55 others were injured in flash floods due to heavy rainfall near the cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas on July 8.

The annual yatra -- which took place this year after a gap of about three years -- started on June 30.

Meanwhile, a batch of 570 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here this morning to pay obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The 43-day Yatra began on June 30 from the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km from Nunwan in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag, and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

The 33rd batch of pilgrims left in a convoy of 21 vehicles amid heavy security of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said.

According to officials, 346 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Jammu base camp in 10 vehicles followed by the second convoy of 11 vehicles carrying 224 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

The number of pilgrims visiting the cave shrine is drastically falling as the yatra is inching towards its conclusion as well as poor weather conditions, officials said.

A total of 1,43,693 pilgrims have left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

A total of 36 people, mostly pilgrims, have died during till now, excluding 15 pilgrims, who died in the flashfloods at Amarnath cave shrine on July 1.

RBA/ALC employees...

in such areas. A large number of employees, however, have not fulfilled this condition despite availing benefit of reservation under these categories," reads an order issued by Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi.

The order further stated, "In the interest of efficient manpower management along-with attending needs of the RBA/ALC areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it is hereby ordered that such persons who have been beneficiaries of reservation under the afore said categories shall furnish an undertaking that they have served in such areas for the statutorily mandated minimum period of seven years. The undertaking shall be duly authenticated from their services books by the concerned DDOs and furnished to the respective HoDs. Further, such employees who have not fulfilled this condition and are serving outside RBA/ALC areas shall be identified by the respective HoDs and their details shared with the concerned Administrative Departments to ensure that their services are utilized for the mandatory period in these areas as per statutory regulations under J&K Reservation Act 2004."

The order added that a compliance report in this regard shall be furnished by the respective departments to the General Administration Department within a month's time positively.

J&K records 741...

Kulgam 20, Bandipora 15, Pulwama and Anantnag 14 cases each, Ganderbal 05 while Shopian district reported 03 fresh cases during the past 24 hours.

Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu reported 125 cases, Ramban 25 Doda 24, Rajouri 16, Udhampur 14, Kathua 07, Samba, Reasi and Kishtwar district 03 cases each and the Poonch district reported two cases. There are 4,846 active cases of the virus in the union territory. The number of recoveries has reached 4,56,285, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 13 fresh Covid cases, pushing the tally to 28,899, officials said. They said all the positive cases were recorded in Leh district.

So far, 228 people have succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, the officials said. There are 98 active cases of the disease in the Union Territory -- 85 in Leh and 13 in Kargil, they said. As many as 34 more COVID-19 patients were cured and discharged from a hospital in Leh, the officials said.

The total recoveries stand at 28,564, they added.

Mughal Road blocked...

National Highway. The Mughal Road was blocked due to landslide triggered by heavy rains in Poshana area, thereby bringing the traffic to halt, they said.

The clearance of the road is in process, they said.

Commuters are requested to know the status of Mughal Road from traffic units in Jammu and Srinagar before planning any journey, they said.

Several hundred vehicles are stranded on this road due to the blockade.

16 Corps commander....

deployed on LoC in Mendhar sector, the officials said.

He reviewed the operational preparedness of troops along LoC, they said.

Lt Gen Singh also appreciated the high standards of professionalism and operational preparedness while felicitating the valiant soldiers.



Illegally dumped material seized from Jhajjar Nallah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JHAJJAR KOTLI: Police on Tuesday seized illegal dumper material and handed it over to IMA Nagrota.

As per details, after receiving information from reliable source that locals and Mining mafia on onset of rainy season and after flood in Jhajjar Nallah in Chaddali area, have started dumping sand from Nallah on the bank illegally. Acting on the information, a team of Police Station Jhajjar Kotli led by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma along with Tehsildar Dansal rushed to the spot and found about 40 dumper material i.e., sand dumped on banks of Nallah. The matter was brought into notice of DMO Jammu and illegally dumped sand was handed-over to IMA Nagrota.

Four Ban toll plaza employees arrested for abducting commuter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JHAJJAR KOTLI: Police on Tuesday arrested 4 employees of Ban toll plaza for abducting commuter.

As per details, a written application was submitted by one Faisal Maqbool Rather, son of Mohd Maqbool Rather, resident of Nowpora, Baramulla at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli stating that on August 2, 2022 at about 3:00 AM, he along with one Faizan Mushtaq Lone, son of Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, resident of Nowpora Baramulla was coming from Jalandhar towards Srinagar. But, when reached Ban Toll Plaza Nagrota, staff of Ban Toll Plaza misbehaved with them and abused despite paying toll tax through Fastag. The staff was wrongly demanding more amount. "After paying toll tax when they moved ahead, four to five persons of Ban Toll Plaza followed them on Alto car (JK02AG/5342) and wrongfully stopped their truck near Nandini Tunnel no.2. After that, they forcibly abducted and kidnapped Faizan Mushtaq Lone with intention to wrongfully confine him besides demanding more money by threatening, using rude language, but he managed to flee from spot somehow.

On the receipt of information FIR No.189/2022 under sections 341,342,365,504 506,34 of IPC was registered at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli and a team from Police Station Jhajjar Kotli led by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma under the supervision of SDPO Nagrota Pardeep Kumar and SP Rural Jammu Sanjay Sharma was constituted to work out abduction case. The police party swung into action and after making hectic efforts, nabbed accused persons, identified as Narinder Singh, son of Gopal Singh, resident of Korga Jandrah; Manish Kumar, son of Tarseem Lal, resident of Gurdaspur (Punjab); Mohd Akram, son of Zakeen Mohd, resident of



Chaddali Dansal and Banu Sharma, son of Raj Kumar, resident of Nagrota. The abducted person was also recovered and vehicle was seized.

Major bovine smuggling bids foiled, 212 animals rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/RAMBAN/REASI: Police on Tuesday foiled major bovine smuggling attempts by rescuing 212 animals in separate actions.

As per details, acting on information received from reliable sources regarding illegal transportation of bovines, a team of Police Station Ghagwal near Naka Tapyal Ghagwal intercepted a truck (JK02AQ/2395). During checking, 14 bovines were found laden in truck, which were rescued. The driver namely Rafaqat Ali, son of Mohd Sardar, resident of Surinsar was arrested and FIR No. 115/2022 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act was registered against him at Police Station Ghagwal.

In another instance, acting on the specific inputs regarding transportation of bovine animals, police parties of Police Stations Batote, Chanderkote, Ramban, Ramsoo and Police Post Jawahar Tunnel intercepted 14 different vehicles (JK13D/9898, JK02AX/3709, JK21AK/2243, JK02BJ/3285,JK02AS/8717, JK21 F/4180, JK14 B/8681, JK19 8031, JK21F/4880, JK14II-6972, JK03B/9240,JK02BR/9717 and JK02AD/6289) and on checking found vehicle laden with 172 bovines, which were rescued. FIR Nos. 152,153,156/2022 registered at Police Station Batote, FIR Nos 117, 118/2022 at Chanderkote and FIR Nos 264,267,269,270,271/2022 at Police Station Ramban, FIR No. 81/2022 at Ramsoo and FIR No. 171/172/173 at Banihal under relevant sections of law and investigation started. The overall operation was carried out by police parties under the command of Insp Neam-UI-Haq SHO Ramsoo, Insp P D Singh SHO Chanderkote, Insp Sandeep Charak SHO Ramban, Insp Rakesh Jamwal SHO Batote, PSI Harish Kumar Incharge Police Post Jawahar Tunnel and Insp Muneer Khan SHO Banihal under the supervision of Pardeep Singh Sen, Dy.SP HQ Ramban and Nisar Ahmed Khoja, SDPO Banihal under overall supervision of SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma.

Meanwhile Reasi police also arrested 4 bovine smugglers and rescued 26 bovines from their possession. A team of Police Post Dewal led by PSI Narinder Jamwal and Insp Karnail Singh SHO Mahore under supervision of Chabail Singh SDPO Mahore laid a surprise Naka at Dewal and intercepted two bovine smugglers namely Mohd Yousaf, son of Sadiq and Bashir Ahmed, son of Abdul Satar, both residents of Saldhar and rescued 21 bovines from their possession. Duo was arrested and FIR No 98/2022 under sections 188 of IPC was registered against them at Police Station Mahore.

In another incident, a team of Police Post Talwara led by PSI Sunil Singh and Insp Sunil Sharma SHO Reasi under supervision of DySP Headquarters Iftkhar Ahmed foiled a bovine smuggling bid in Talwara area and arrested two smugglers namely Khurshid Mohd, son of Ghulam Qadar and Ghulam Qadar, son of Hamid, resident of Puria, Tehsil Pouni District Reasi. Five bovines were recovered from their possession and FIR no 188/2022 under sections 188 of IPC was registered at Police Station Reasi.

Narco-peddler arrested with 18.59 gm heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Tuesday nabbed a narco smuggler and recovered 18.59 gm heroin from his possession.

As per details, a team led by Insp O P Chib SHO Police Station Kathua under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua Shammi Kumar & under the guidance of SSP Kathua R C Kotwal during Naka/checking duty apprehended a suspect namely Amandeep Singh, son of Late Baldev Singh, resident of Ward-8 Parliwand Kathua. On thorough checking, approximately 18.59 gm heroin like substance was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and FIR No. 298/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Kathua. It is pertinent to mention here that accused is a habitual offender and 4 different cases

already stand registered against him at Police Station Kathua.

3 arrested in attempt to murder case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police on Tuesday arrested 3 accused involved in attempt to murder case registered at Police Station Ramgarh.

As per the details, during investigation of a FIR No.71/2022 registered under sections 307/341/323/382/147/148/149 of IPC, 4/25 of Arms Act at Police Station Ramgarh, a team of Police Station Ramgarh led by SHO Insp Asha Nand under the supervision of SDPO Vijaypur, Priyanka Kumari arrested three suspects namely Akshay Sharma, son of Banarasi Dass, resident of Gudwal Tehsil Ramgarh; Rohit Bloria, son of Gopal Krishan, resident of Ward-12, Vijaypur and Sahil Sharma alias Shallu, son of Vijay Kumar, resident of Rangoor Camp, Tehsil Ramgarh, District Samba.

During sustained questioning, the accused confessed their involvement in crime and on their disclosure, a motorcycle (JK21H2244) was recovered which was snatched by them during commission of crime. The whole operation was carried out under the overall supervision of SSP Dr Abhishek Mahajan.

Scooty rider booked for beating car driver

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A scooty rider was booked for beating a car driver over overtake issue in Pacea Danga area on Tuesday.

As per details, a car driver namely Aditya Mahajan, son Atul Gupta, resident of Trikuta Nagar lodged a complaint with police that when he was going in his car on Monday, he overtook a scooty. The rider did not like the same and firstly abused the car driver and later chased car and thrashed him near Parade Chowk. On receiving complaint, police personnel got conducted medical examination of Aditya Gupta and recorded his statement, after which a case was registered at Police Station against scooty rider, who was identified as Sahil Chandel.

In another instance, a man was found unconscious under suspicious circumstances on roadside in Kachi Chawani area under Pacea Danga Police Station. The youth, identified as Sachin Sharma, was taken to hospital for treatment.

Assault on DDC: Police raids suspected locations, main accused flees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: In a case regarding assault on DDC, Bishnah Police conducted raids at several areas to nab main accused who attacked DDC, but accused fled from spot after seeing police.

As per details, SHO of surrounding areas led by SP conducted raids at several suspected locations, but accused managed to flee on seeing police. Aerial firing was also been done by police.

As per case, some people of a particular community attacked DDC Dharmendra Kumar in Bishah area on Monday and fired three shots, out of which one was shot at hand, due to which DDC got injured. On receiving information, police rushed to spot and took DDC to hospital. A case was registered and six people were arrested. DDC Dharmendra Kumar had left home to visit temple on his scooty but on way, saw a load carrier carrying with some people of a particular community trying to kidnap a man. On this, Dharmendra intervened and asked reason after which a dispute was erupted and accused attacked Dharmendra with sharp-edged weapon. Accordingly, a complaint was lodged with police and a team rushed to the spot. On seeing police, attackers fled from the spot and kidnapped person was also released. After this incident, many places were raided by police and six persons were arrested.

On Tuesday morning, raids were conducted in many areas by police as there was information about presence of main accused. When team reached a village, where main accused was hiding, he managed to flee on seeing police. Aerial firing was also done by police. Search is going on for the accused. Pertinent to mention here that many cases have already been registered against him.