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Admin committed to...

and communication connectivity, augmented power infrastructure, better health and said that sports and education facilities are the testimony to our commitment towards transforming the standard of living of the people of the district.

Dwelling upon the measures taken to strengthen the infrastructure and facilities for Holy Machail Mata pilgrimage, the Lt Governor reiterated the resolve of the UT Administration to ensure smooth and seamless pilgrimage for the devotees.

Construction of road, solar power and tented accommodation for pilgrims has spurred the influx and this year's figure has already crossed more than one lakh pilgrims, he added.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government of India for extending the support for survey, geological studies of Sapphire mines.

In next one year, we will be in a position to auction the Sapphire mines in a scientific way that will give a boost to the local economy and it will also become one of major contributors of growth of Jammu Kashmir, he said.

Addressing the issues put forth by PRIs and the locals, the Lt Governor assured time-bound and appropriate action on all public demands projected during the interaction. He also directed the Principal Secretaries Higher Education and Public Works (R&B) to take concrete measures, in consultation with all stakeholders, to address the concerning issue of their respective departments at the earliest.

The Lt Governor sought active participation of PRIs and the people in implementation of all the initiatives of the UT Administration to push forward the development of Kishtwar.

He also called upon the youth of the district to avail the benefits and incentives under home stay schemes of the government.

The Lt Governor also visited the Buddhist Gumpa at Paddar, where he sought blessings of the Lord Buddha and interacted with the members of the Buddhist community.

"Buddhist community is an integral and equal part of our society. They have all the rights on the resources. Administration will provide all possible assistance for the all round growth and empowerment of the families," the Lt Governor said.

Students of Government Degree College and Himalayan Cultural School Gulabgarh presented the Padari and Buddhist folk dance performances.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar; PRI representatives, senior officers and locals in large numbers were also present on the occasion.

NTPC starts trial...

bus reached Leh on August 17 as part of a three-month-long process of field trials, roadworthiness tests and other statutory procedures.

This will be India's first-ever deployment of hydrogen buses on public roads, it claimed.

The first-of-its-kind Green Hydrogen Mobility Project at 11,562 ft is co-located with a dedicated solar plant of 1.7 MW for providing renewable power.

The fuel cell buses are designed for operation in sub-zero temperatures in rarefied atmospheres, typical to such altitude locations, which is a unique feature of this project.

NTPC is committed to achieving 60 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2032 and be a major player in green hydrogen technology and energy storage domain.

The company is taking up several initiatives towards decarbonisation, such as hydrogen blending, carbon capture, EV buses, smart NTPC Townships etc.

LeT terror module...

told the naka party that they were going to a hospital due to certain medical emergencies, he said.

However, the naka party felt suspicious about them and started a search of the vehicle.

During the search, four hand grenades, two pistols, two pistol magazines, 10 live bullet and Rs 50,000 in cash were recovered, Nagpure said.

He said all the five were taken into custody.

They have been identified as Akhter Bhat of Tarzoo Sopore, Mohammad Aslam Khatana of Churunda Uri, Muneer Ahmad of Jabla Uri, Mudasir Yousuf Gokno of Krankshivan, and Bilal Ahmad Dar of Hardushiva.

The accused are involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the behest of Pakistan-based terror handlers and its further distribution to LeT terrorists for carrying out terror activities, the SSP said.

In a related development, two terrorist associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested in Baramulla district and two grenades and eight pistol rounds were recovered from their possession, police said.

At a joint checkpoint established at Sher Colony Tarzoo in Sopore area of the north Kashmir district, security forces intercepted two persons who on seeing the joint party tried to flee, but were apprehended, a police spokesman said.

He identified them as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat and Tanveer Ahmad Lone, both residents of Darnambal Tarzoo.

The two are linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT and during their search, two grenades and eight pistol rounds and other incriminating materials were recovered, the spokesman said.

A case has been registered and an investigation has been initiated, he said.

Meanwhile, security forces have recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district, the Army said.

"Joint Operation launched by #IndianArmy, @BSF Kashmir and @JmuKmrPolice in #Machhal Sector #Kupwara from 15-18 Aug 23 based on Intelligence inputs by various agencies of likely presence of a cache of war like stores," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Army said on X, formerly Twitter.

The Army said a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including five AK rifles, seven pistols, four hand grenades and other incriminating material were recovered.

The search is in progress, it added.

No case of...

are there or not. We are focused on our work. Our task is not to allow anyone to engineer infiltration. No one is allowed to infiltrate into this side," he said.

On the challenges posed by flooding along the border, Boora said the BSF consistently prepares for this eventuality three months prior to the monsoon.

"Due to floods, there is always difficulty for troops for three to four days, but our work does not get hampered as we are prepared for it," he added.

Budha Amarnath Yatra...

temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is one of the oldest shrines in the Jammu region and attracts a large number of devotees during the annual yatra, which concludes with the arrival of 'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) at the shrine from the Dashnami Akhara, Poonch.

The sacred Pulsata river flows by the temple and devotees bathe in it before entering the temple.

Meanwhile, security arrangements for the 10-day Budha Amarnath Yatra in Poonch district, officials said.

Representatives from the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and other stakeholders attended the meeting, which was aimed at ensuring the safety and smooth passage of pilgrims.

The Joint Intelligence and Security Coordination meeting reviewed the existing security arrangements, logistical plans and coordination strategies for the pilgrimage to the shrine of Budha Amarnath in Poonch district.

"A significant joint security review meeting was conducted at Budhal in Rajouri district to discuss and assess the ongoing preparations for the Budha Amarnath Yatra," a defence spokesman said.

The primary focus was to enhance collaboration among all participating agencies to ensure seamless execution and to safeguard the pilgrims, he added.

Emphasizing the importance of synergy, the meeting stressed the need for joint efforts to achieve optimal results.

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Mushaal Hussein Mullick's...

stories against India and the Army while as her husband, a dreaded terrorist involved in the killing of security forces personnel, Kashmiri Pandits and civilians, is serving life sentence in New Delhi's Tihar.

"Instead of reining in elements inimical to peace, Pakistan is repeatedly resorting to such actions that harm national interest of India. We urge international bodies to take cognizance of the matter and stop Pakistan from giving political space to terrorists," Chugh said.

Pertinently Mushal took oath along with 18 members of Pakistan's interim cabinet. However, due to her dual nationality, Mushal will not be a full-fledged minister but will work as a special advisor on human rights issues to PM Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Pakistan media has said.

Screening test for...

of Lab Attendant / Theatre Attendant / Lab Assistant for 14 posts, it is for the information of all the candidates that screening test which is scheduled to be held on Sunday 20th of August 2023 is postponed due to Administrative reasons and next date of screening test shall be intimated later on."

"Inconvenience to the candidates is regretted," it added.

History cannot be...

say? You cannot bury history, history will emerge. We will disappear, these people will disappear like others, (but), history will remain," he added.

Responding to a poser on the Supreme Court hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, Abdullah said everyone is presenting their case which is there in front of the top court.

"Earlier also, two judgments have been given by the Supreme Court in favour of (Article) 370. We all are confident that our talk (arguments) before them, all lawyers who have put the case before them, that they will look at it justly and give justice to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," he said.

When asked to comment on Democratic Progressive Azad Party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad's remarks that majority of Muslims in India and Jammu and Kashmir have converted from Hinduism, the NC president said the former Congress leader knows the history.

"I cannot speak for him, it is for him to answer what was the necessity (for those remarks)," he said. The NC president said the "history of our state and the people is very different."

"There is no doubt there was a period when there were Hindus there and then they all converted to Buddhism when Buddhism was on the rise. Once Buddhism disappeared, they reconverted themselves. That is a long history," said Abdullah.

"You must remember (sufi saint) Ameer-e-Kabeer came (to Kashmir), he brought Islam and trade with it, so that people who were really down in the dumps could do some work with their fingers and earn some honest wages," he added.

The former Union minister said at that time, they "divided" people in the Hindu system into the higher Brahmin and the lower Brahmin.

"The lower Brahmin was not even allowed to come to the temple, he was down-trodden like today we have Dalits, exactly that happened to the lower Brahmins.

When they saw that Islam has come where there is no difference between the rich and the poor and everyone is equal, there are facilities for all and there is no division in people, they turned to Islam," said Abdullah.

"That is the history. Islam progressed, brought in lot of good things like carpets, wood carving, entire Quran brought in a justice system which did not exist, so that justice system made people more and more aware of what Islam is and became Muslims, that is our history," he added.

To a question about Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha saying that Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was free to go wherever he wanted to, the NC president said that it was a total lie.

"All this is a total lie, 100 per cent lie. He (Mirwaiz) cannot venture out, not to Jamia Masjid. How long they will tell lies? If he (Mirwaiz) is free, then why have they put (security) forces at his door and nobody can enter there?" Abdullah asked.

"Are you able to interview Mirwaiz? If you can't interview Mirwaiz, then is he

free? There you are. It is before you, I don't have to put the case before you, you know already what the situation is," he added.

'This side or...

opinion on," the court said.

Justice Khanna said due to paucity of time, the bench will not be able to hear the matter further today as it has already listed petitions challenging the Bihar caste survey. All hate speech matters will be heard next Friday, the court said.

"I have gone through the 2018 verdict in the case of Tehseen Poonawalla and the guidelines issued by this court. I hope the guidelines are being strictly complied with," Justice Khanna told Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the Centre.

Advocate Nizam Pasha, representing one of the key petitioners Shaheen Abdullah, said they hope there are no sides to hate.

The lawyer, who claimed hate speeches were made against Hindus at the IUML rally, said Pasha had not placed correct facts before the court.

The bench restrained him from speaking further.

The court then allowed the petitioners and respondents to file whatever documents, written submissions they needed to file, and posted all the petitions for hearing on August 25.

On August 11, observing that there has to be harmony and comity between communities, the top court had mooted a committee constituted by the Director General of Police (DGP) of Haryana to go into the cases registered in the wake of the recent communal riots in the state that claimed six lives.

The top court had made the observation while hearing a plea over alleged "blatant hate speeches" calling for killing members of a particular community and their social and economic boycott at rallies in different states, including Haryana.

It had asked Nataraj to seek instructions and inform it about the proposed committee.

The top court had also directed Shaheen Abdullah to collate all material, including videos, and submit to the nodal officers appointed in each state in pursuance of its October 21, 2022 judgement.

In his petition, Abdullah has referred to the August 2 order of the apex court passed in the context of Nuh-Gurugram violence which said, "We hope and trust that the state governments and police will ensure that no hate speeches irrespective of the identity are made against any community and there is no physical violence or damage to the properties."

CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat has also moved the top court seeking to intervene in the plea filed by Abdullah.

Body of foreign...

to escape, the defence spokesman said.

The Army troops readjusted their positions to prevent his escape.

The terrorist was seen stumbling and falling down the cliff in a dense jungle, he said, adding that the search was halted for the night due to inclement weather and topography.

During the search operation along with SOG and village defence committee (VDC) members in early morning hours, the body of suspected foreign terrorist was found in the gorge, the spokesman said.

A police spokesman said two Pakistani terrorists were trapped by police in an encounter at Gundha Khawas area on August 5. In the encounter, one terrorist was eliminated and another was severely injured, he said.

Joint teams of forces, including teams of Reasi and Rajouri police, were on the lookout for the second terrorist who got injured during the encounter but managed to escape from the site taking advantage of thick foliage, he said.

The terrorist is suspected to be involved in many terror cases in Rajouri-Poonch region, including the recent attack on security forces at Kesari Hill and on a village in Dhangri, he said.

ETS sets up...

will come up at Hashtag Educational Services at Regal Chowk here -- offering easy accessibility to the test takers.

"This historic development promises to be a game-changer for study abroad aspirants in the region," the firm said.

This is the first time a global assessment organisation has set up a dedicated testing facility in the region, thereby addressing a significant need of local students aspiring to pursue international higher education, the company said.

ETS India and South Asia Country Manager Sachin Jain said the setting up of a world-class testing centre in Kashmir will give a significant access to aspirants to study abroad.

"Our breadth of initiatives across education, including global assessments, English language competency assessments from K-12 to College, skill development and assessment services, is a testimony to our commitment to invest in India and accelerate its journey to becoming a global knowledge powerhouse," he said.

Previously, students from the valley had to travel to the neighbouring state of Punjab to take TOEFL and GRE assessments.

The new testing centre not only eliminates the need for travel, but also signifies ETS's commitment to empowering students and the local study abroad ecosystem in Kashmir, the company said.

The centre is equipped with "state-of-the-art" facilities and adheres to stringent test security protocols to ensure a seamless testing experience to both TOEFL and GRE test takers.

The ETS India plans to further invest in partnering with agents and educational institutions in the Kashmir region, to support local students in their study abroad journeys, the company said.

NIA raids in...

suspected of having links with Pakistan-based terror networks through banned social media applications. Some documents of salary hike have also been seized from the spot.

NIA also carried out a raid in Shopian district in a terror-related case, officials said.

The raid is going on in the house of Mohammad Yousuf Wani, resident of Chotigam area of Shopian district in south Kashmir, the officials said. They said Wani is a farmer by occupation.

BJP nominates Priya Sethi as Prabhari for BJP social media in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Friday nominated Priya Sethi, former minister as Prabhari for BJP Social Media. A circular signed by the J&K BJP chief, Ravinder Raina, reads, "Priya Sethi (Former Minister) is nominated as Prabhari for BJP social media Jammu and Kashmir UT".

Bhagwati Haqiqat Memorial School hosts Inter-School Note Book cover competition



Faculty along with students during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bhagwati Haqiqat Memorial Public High School Barnai, Jammu hosted on Inter-School Note Book cover competition of Class III students under the banner of "Youth Talent Search". The schools participated in the competition include Bhagwati Haqiqat Memorial Public High School, S.D Tarapuri School Jammu, Alexander Memorial Public School Jammu, New Era Environmental High School Jammu, Lawrence Public School Sidhra, Play Way House School Pounichak, Vikram Memorial School, Bishnah, J&K Montessori Public School, Talab Tillo, Humanity Public School, Bari Brahmana and Elite Public High School, Udhaywala. Principal Usha Jamwal thanked the Judges, Teachers while participants were awarded with certificates of appreciation.

Pakistan appoints Yasin Malik's wife as special advisor to caretaker PM

■ AGENCY
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has appointed Mishal Hussain Malik, wife of the jailed Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik, as a special advisor to the country's newly appointed caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

Malik's appointment drew a sharp reaction from India's ruling BJP, which said that the move vindicated India's charge that Pakistan harbours terrorists who attack India.

Malik's name was included in the five Special Advisor to Prime Minister (SAPM) list unveiled late on Thursday night after President Arif Alvi administered an oath to the 19-member caretaker Cabinet at Aiwani-e-Sadr, the presidential house.

Mishal, a Pakistani national married to Malik, was appointed special advisor to the caretaker Prime Minister Kakar on human rights and women empowerment.

A special advisor has a lower status than a junior minister but provides assistance to the prime minister on key relevant issues.

Among other four special advisors, Jawad Sohrab Malik has been appointed

SAPM for overseas Pakistanis, vice admiral (retired) Iftikhar Rao as an advisor on maritime affairs, TV anchor and writer Wasih Shah on tourism, and Syeda Arifa Zehra as an advisor on federal education and professional training.

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin married Pakistani artist Mishal in Rawalpindi in 2009. The two met while Yasin was on a tour of Pakistan in 2005.

"Mishal Hussain Malik's appointment endorses India's claim that Pakistan is harbouring terrorism and terrorists," BJP national general secretary and its in-charge for Jammu & Kashmir Tarun Chugh said in a statement in New Delhi.

He said Pakistan has always provided refuge to "most wanted terrorists" involved in subversive activities in India.

"Instead of reining in elements inimical to peace, Pakistan is repeatedly resorting to such actions that harm the national interest of India.

We urge international bodies to take cognizance of the matter and stop Pakistan from giving political space to terrorists," Chugh said.

Two JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government on Friday transferred two JKAS officers.

As per GAD order, Rajinder Singh Tara, JKAS, Director General, Command Area Development, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Custodian

General, J&K. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Director General, Command Area Development, Jammu, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Further, Deepika Kumari Sharma, JKAS, Secretary in the Jal Shakti Department, holding additional charge of

Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, under orders of transfer as Custodian General, J&K, in terms of Government Order No. 875-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated July 18, 2023, shall continue at her present place of posting.

DLSA Jammu holds programme on 'Pre Institution Mediation & Settlement'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As per the Action plan issued by J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) for the month of August, 2023, a programme was held on "Pre Institution Mediation & Settlement and on benefits of Settlement of cases through ADR" on Friday in Conference Hall of Lawyers Chamber building of District Court Complex Janipur, here.

Programme was presided over by Chairman District legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Jammu Sanjay Parihar and Resource person for the programme was Bala Jyoti, Special Judge Anti Corruption CBI Court Jammu.

Programme was held under

the supervision of Secretary DLSA Jammu Smriti Sharma and was attended by all the Panel Lawyers and Trained Mediators of DLSA Jammu and of TLSC Bishnah, Akhnoor and RS Pura. The welcome address was given by Smriti Sharma and subsequently Sanjay Parihar addressed the Panel Lawyers and Trained Mediators as well and give various perspectives of the Pre-Institution Mediation Settlement benefits. Then, Resource person Bala Jyoti, conducted the program in 4 parts i.e Introduction, Power Point Presentation, Quiz Session and Role-Play.

Resource person described the concept of Pre-Institution Mediation & Settlement and

explained the benefits of settlement of cases through ADR. She emphasised why should people prefer mediation over litigation. She explained how mediation reduces the burden of Courts. She told Mediation in reality is shaping the future of dispute resolution and improving access to justice.

Bala Jyoti, explained the whole process of "Mediation" and its benefits through a Power Point Presentation. She described the role of mediators during the process of Mediation. She briefly explained different judgments of Supreme Court as well of different High Courts.

At the end, Vote of thanks was presented by Smriti Sharma.