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Committed to establish..

ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Secretary Tourism Department and other senior officials of Police and Civil administration.

Extensive deliberation was also held on infrastructure and modalities to address the immediate requirements.

Responding to the demands, the Lt Governor said the UT Administration is working with the right intent to meet the developmental needs and aspirations of the people. He assured that all the important works will be taken on priority.

On demand of restoration of Khanqah, the Lt Governor directed the tourism department to work in close coordination with experts of NIT, analyse the detailed design, architectural drawings and restore the revered structure to its original glory.

He said the construction work on utilities was on hold due to Court's order which has been vacated and the work will be completed soon.

The Lt Governor said the work on the District Hospital at Budgam will start soon and on completion, the facility will cater to the healthcare needs of the people of Budgam.

The Lt Governor highlighted the reforms introduced in various sectors over the past few years, under the guidance of Prime Minister, which has brought transformational changes in the growth journey of Jammu Kashmir.

We have been successful in establishing a peaceful and prosperous ecosystem in the UT. This has been possible because of the support and cooperation of the people of J&K, he said.

The Lt Governor also took appraisal of the ongoing works at the Shrine and adjoining area. Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Waqf Officials and prominent citizens were also present.

Santosh Vaidya nominated..

State Finance Corporation Act, 1951 and in partial modification of Government Order No. 705-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated June 16, 2023, Santosh D. Vaidya, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, is nominated as Director on the Board of the Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

SHO Poonch among..

SHO Surankote; Inspector Sunil Singh from PC Poonch and posted as SHO Mandi; Inspector Habbit-Ul-Rehman from DPL Poonch and posted at SHO Gursai as SHO; Inspector Rajveer Singh from Police Station Surankote and Inspector Mukhtiar Ali from Police Station Mandi and posted at DPL Poonch; Inspector Mohd Javid has been transferred from Police Station Poonch and posted as SHO Loran. Moreover, Inspector now DySP Farooq Ahmed Khateeb, shall report DPO Poonch till further adjustment.

NIA carries out..

it added. Several digital devices and incriminating documents related to financial transactions were seized in the searches in the case (RC-37/2020/NIA/DLI) registered suo-moto by the NIA on October 8, 2020, the agency said.

The case relates to activities of certain NGOs, trusts, societies and organisations involved in collecting funds domestically and abroad, and transferring the same to separatist and terrorist organisations to sustain terrorist and secessionist activities in Kashmir, it said. The NIA had earlier conducted searches at 23 locations in Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Bangalore in the case.

ACB traps Sarpanch..

provided under law. On receipt of the complaint, a Case FIR No. 13/2023 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted by this Bureau, which laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 9,000 from the complainant.

The money was recovered from the accused on spot. The accused has been identified as Muzaffar Ahmad Rather, son of Wali Mohd Rather, resident of Manigam, Sarpanch Manigam-A. Further investigation into the case is going, it added.

Pakistan gifting drug..

are eradicating militancy here and Pakistan is sending the same gift to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir as well. The need is to stay alert and defeat this conspiracy," Singh told reporters here.

The DGP said the police have taken stringent action against the narco-terrorism trade in Jammu and Kashmir and have registered 2,000 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested more than 3,000 persons involved in these cases.

"We have got successes against the narco-terror and weapon trade that is being run from Pakistan. We have intensified our operations. For the first time, such a large number of arrests have been made under the NDPS Act, people involved in this are detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA), and the properties accumulated through narco-terror trade are being targeted," Singh said.

He said the civil administration and police were making efforts to help rehabilitate the youth who have fallen victim to drug abuse.

"I want to appeal to the children to stay very far from this menace as it is deadly

and harmful to society. The ill effects will be felt for a long time," he added.

Asked about the presence of foreign militants in Kashmir, Singh said they have been neutralised to a large extent.

"Last year, 40 of them were killed and the remaining will also be dealt with. A large number of terrorists killed at the border while infiltrating into Kashmir were foreigners of Pakistani origin," he said.

'Will locate missing..

operations to trace soldier Javaid Ahmad Wani entered the third day on Tuesday but went missing on Saturday evening. His car was found abandoned at Paranhall.

Wani's father has appealed to those who might have abducted his son to release him alive since he was the only breadwinner of the family.

"I appeal to all the brothers to let him go alive. If he has troubled anyone, I apologise for that. If they want I will get him to quit his job as well," Mohammad Ayoub Wani told reporters on Sunday.

Wani said his son had gone out to buy meat on Saturday evening as he was to go back to his place of posting on Sunday.

"He told his brother to drop him at the airport tomorrow (Sunday). Sometime later, we got a call that his car was found abandoned with its doors ajar," the father said. Eyewitnesses claim that there were blood marks in the car but officials have not confirmed or denied it.

Although it is not clear yet if the missing jawan has been abducted by terrorists, he is the fourth soldier to go missing in Kashmir while on leave.

In May 2017, the ultras kidnapped Lieutenant Umer Fayyaz from his uncle's house in Shopian district where he had gone to attend a wedding.

The young officer was shot dead and his body was found the next morning.

An army soldier, Aurangzeb, was kidnapped by militants while he was on his way home to Poonch from Pulwama district in June 2018. He was later shot dead and the video of his execution was circulated by the ultras.

Another jawan, Sameer Malla was abducted by terrorists in March 2022 and found dead three days later in Budgam district.

SIU-Kupwara attaches..

and 3 marlas located at multiple locations within the district," an official said. This measure aims at disrupting Qureshi's illicit network and restricting his ability to carry out acts of terror, he said.

Qureshi has been a persistent threat to the peace and security of the Union Territory since the time he ex-filtrated to Pakistan in the early 90s, the official said.

"He is a member of the Al-Barq terror outfit and is currently operating from PoJK (Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir) as launching commander. Farooq's strategic involvement in numerous acts of terror has caused immense suffering and loss of innocent lives in the (Kashmir) valley in the past," he said.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Police has been actively pursuing his acts to bring an end to his destructive activities," the official said.

Police said the attachment of property serves as a strong message to terrorists and their supporters that their actions will not go unnoticed or unpunished.

It underscores the unwavering commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in combating terrorism at its roots and dismantling its infrastructure, they said.

Meanwhile, an overground worker (OGW) of terror outfits has been detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Rajouri district, police said.

Mohammad Shabir, a resident of Draj village in Kotranka tehsil, is the second overground worker to be detained under the Public Safety Act in the border district within a week.

On July 26, Akbar Hussain of Marutha-Kanthol village was detained under the administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

"Shabir is a notorious overground worker and has been detained under the Public Safety Act for his involvement in unlawful activities," a police spokesperson said.

He said Shabir's detention order was issued by the Rajouri district magistrate and executed by a police team on Monday.

The spokesperson said many overground workers in the district have already been detained under preventive sections of the law to check their unlawful activities.

Trust on each..

his education abroad. "When an award is named after Lokmanya Tilak, the responsibility increases," he said. The PM also lauded the contribution of Pune in India's fight against coronavirus pandemic. Pawar said the first surgical strike in India was during Chhatrapati Shivaji's period. The NCP leader said the country had seen two eras: One of Tilak and another of Mahatma Gandhi.

We must strengthen..

Param Pujya Mahamandleshwar Acharya Shri Swami Vishveshwar Anand Giri Ji Maharaj.

He expressed gratitude to the Mahamandleshwar Acharya Shri Swami Vishveshwar Anand Giri Ji Maharaj for his immense contributions towards promotion of Sanskrit and spiritual institutions.

Swami ji has a great vision for the development of the country. Youth must take inspiration from his life and teachings and dedicate themselves to preserve our tradition, culture and social values, the Lt Governor said.

It should be our collective responsibility to create a better society and contribute in enriching cultural heritage, he added.

In his address, the Lt Governor commended the endeavours of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sanshan Trust and other organizations engaged in promotion of Sanskrit language.

"I have always emphasized on promoting Sanskrit as people's language. As one of the oldest living languages of the world, Sanskrit offers a treasure of knowledge in science, medicine, literature and also language of existence. We must strengthen our efforts to popularize it," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also shared the resolve of the Central Government and the UT Administration for protecting and preserving India's glorious heritage.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for removing all traces of colonial mindset and to take pride in our roots to achieve the goal of developed India. We should feel proud of our heritage. It gave us golden period in the past and it will again make India the most powerful nation in the world," the Lt Governor said.

He assured every possible assistance by the administration to organizations and individuals in their efforts to promote the ancient cultural values in the society.

Param Pujya Mahamandleshwar Acharya Shri Swami Vishveshwar Anand Giri Ji Maharaj, in his address, lauded the dedicated efforts of the Lt Governor for popularizing the Sanskrit language and giving special attention to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul.

Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President BJP and former Minister appreciated the UT administration for taking various initiatives for promotion of Sanskrit and developing places of religious importance in the UT.

Kapil Khanna, President Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Delhi also shared his views on the occasion and highlighted the need to promote Sanskrit language.

Students from Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Basolhi presented the cultural programme in Sanskrit and staged a drama on Shankaracharya.

Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shakti Pathak, DIG; Mahant Rohit Shastri, President Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sanshan Trust; spiritual leaders; heads of religious organizations, prominent citizens and students were present on the occasion.

LS to take..

begin on August 8 and continue till August 10 when the prime minister will reply to the debate," a senior leader said.

The opposition bloc INDIA with the Congress, DMK, Left parties and the TMC, as well as the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, demanded that the House take up the motion immediately and protested the government pushing through its legislative agenda this week.

The government has insisted that there are no rules or precedence which make it mandatory for the House to take up the no-confidence motion immediately. It has argued that rules state the motion should be taken up for discussion within 10 working days of being admitted.

Congress whip in the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore said the Lok Sabha was adjourned after the opposition parties of the INDIA alliance demanded the presence of Prime Minister Modi in the House and that he makes a statement on the Manipur issue.

He said the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha was held at noon, during which the constituents of the INDIA alliance demanded that the no-confidence motion be brought up immediately.

"We wanted that the no-confidence motion be taken up tomorrow itself," Tagore said.

The Congress leader said that in the 16th Lok Sabha when the TDP moved a no-confidence motion, it was listed the next day. "Therefore, the delay is not proper. In protest, the INDIA alliance partners walked out of the speaker's business advisory committee of the Lok Sabha," he said.

DMK leader T R Balu said they walked out of the business advisory committee meeting as the government wanted them to endorse its decision to start a discussion on the no-confidence motion on August 8.

The opposition leaders have been citing Lok Sabha precedence and rules that the no-confidence motion be taken up first after setting aside all other government business. The motion was moved by Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla admitted it on July 26.

SC to hear..

by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud will conduct day-to-day hearing from Wednesday.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, had on July 11 fixed July 27 as the deadline for filing written submissions and convenience compilations by different parties.

The five-judge bench had said the hearing will be held on a day-to-day basis except on Mondays and Fridays, which are days for hearing miscellaneous matters in the apex court. Only fresh petitions are taken up on these days for admission hearing and regular matters are not heard.

It had appointed two lawyers -- one each from the petitioners' and the government's side -- to prepare convenience compilation and file it before July 27, and made it clear that after the said date no documents will be accepted. A convenience note gives the court a snapshot of the entire case to assist it in quickly appreciating the facts. It had said the Centre's affidavit with regard to the conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir after the August 5, 2019 notification repealing Article 370 will have no bearing on the constitutional issue to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench.

Dy SP lynching case: HC upholds PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice M.A Chowdhary while upholding the detention under PSA of Inuran Nabi Wani, observed that preventive detention is devised to afford protection to society. The object is not to punish a man for having done something but to intercept before he does it and to prevent him from doing so.

The grounds of detention formulated by the detaining authority inter alia would show that the detenu was found to be the main accused in Dy SP lynching case at Nowhatta. It is further contended that on the intervening night of June 22-June 23, 2017 in cognizance of a gruesome incident in which an officer of the rank of Dy Superintendent of Police was lynched to death by a mob raising slogans against the Union of India and accession of J&K State with the Union of India. It is further revealed that the

said police officer of security wing of J&K Police was deployed at Jamia Masjid Srinagar in view of large gathering there on the eve of Shab-i-Qadr, to supervise the manpower which was deployed there for frisking purposes. Detenu along with other anti national elements attacked the said officer and snatched his service pistol and thrashed him ruthlessly till he succumbed to the beating and died on spot.

The accused persons didn't stop there but inhumanely dragged the dead body of the deceased out from the area adjacent to the mosque, tore his clothes and left the body without clothes and other belongings at Bata Gali Nowhatta. In this regard FIR 51/2017 under Sections 148, 392, 341, 302, 149 RPC and 13 Unlawful Activities Prevention Act was registered in Police Station Nowhatta.

DB closes PIL for upgrading Civil Airport Jammu at par with international airports

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Advocate Ravi Abrol seeking directions to respondents to upgrade the Civil Airport, Jammu at par with international airports with provision of inflow and outflow of international flights in view of large number of pilgrims visiting Jammu from outside the country to pay obeisance to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal after hearing Adv Ravi Abrol for the PIL, Sr. AAG SS Nanda for the UT and Adv Inderjeet Gupta with Adv Yatin Mahajan for the AAI, directed Sr. AAG to file an affidavit as directed

by this Court on Feb 23, 2023 by or before the next date of hearing. When the PIL came-up for hearing, the Division Bench observed that as far as the first prayer for upgradation of civil Airport, Jammu, is concerned, factually this Court cannot issue any direction as the matter purely falls within the realm of executive and policy matter.

Coming to the second issue, regarding extension of airstrip of civil Airport, Jammu, D.C Raina, Advocate General submits that the airstrip of Airport, Jammu, has been extended from 6700 to 8000 ft.

DB further observed that as regards the parking facility and providing friendly services to passengers at Jammu Airport it is stated at the bar by the learned

Advocate General that both the facilities have already been provided and the services have been improved. It is further stated that even the night parking facility has also been started at Jammu Airport w.e.f 21.04.2022.

DB further observed that so far as prayer for creating provisions for night landing of flights at Jammu Airport by providing CAT system is concerned, it has been submitted at the bar that the flights are landing in the evening. In any case, these are again the matters for the competent authority to take a call.

During the course of hearing Adv Ravi Abrol submitted that Jammu and Srinagar being two important divisions of the Union Territory. Though air connectivity has

been provided, but there are no flights in the morning.

DB observed that keeping in view the genuine demands of the people living in these two divisions and also keeping in mind that the only land route is subjected to frequent disturbances due to land sliding etc., providing of better air connectivity between the two integral divisions will help better communication and counsel for the petitioner is at liberty to file appropriate representation before the competent authorities in this regard, and we expect that the competent authorities will look into the genuine demands of the public and take necessary steps in this regard for providing air connectivity in the morning as was earlier provided forthwith.

G&M Department organises plantation drive



DMO Samba planting the sapling.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Department of Geology and Mining on Tuesday organised a plantation drive near mines and within mineral processing

units. As part of ongoing Meri Mitti Mera Desh campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the District mineral officer Samba had instructed all the lease holders and mineral based units to go for extensive plantation drive as a give back to environment under the Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER)

In this connection, a plantation drive was organised on the banks of Basantar with the active involvement of the lease holders. The DMO informed that under CSR and CER lease holders/mining contractors and mineral based units were already instructed to carry out extensive plantation drives during this rainy season.

KPS seeks comprehensive return and rehabilitation policy for KPs with security in valley

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the executive committee of Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) Jammu was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of its president K. K. Khosa.

The members expressed their opinions about the impact of the proposed amendment to the State Reorganization Act 2019 for reservation of two seats for the displaced community (migrants) by way of nomination by the Lieutenant

Governor of the UT in the Legislative Assembly.

The members expressed their happiness about the reservations but simultaneously expressed their disappointment over the fact that the government instead of making provisions for reservation of three or four assembly seats and one parliamentary seat as requested by the Sabha and other organizations of the community had only extended this nominal gesture.

Taking into consideration

year 2022 and also it appears, that the NBE has no plan to set up an Examination Centre for 2023 in Srinagar. Chib said that NBE should understand that NEET-SS is a very important and crucial examination, for aspiring medical professionals, for their future by seeking admission in various higher super specialty courses such as DM, M Ch and DNB, in other institutions of our country. He further said that, the Kashmir as compared to Jammu has large number of aspirants and hence there is a need to have centres both at Jammu and Srinagar. He said if a large number of doctors have to leave their hospitals for Jammu to participate in Examination, for a minimum of three days, will potentially effect the patient care, in their absence.

that the upper house has been abolished where people representing various ethno-religious groups who were unable to get their representatives elected to the assembly were nominated, this provision for nomination to the assembly was inadequate, Khosa said adding that in the absence of a comprehensive return and rehabilitation policy for the Kashmiri Pandits with full sense of security these nominations were of cosmetic importance at best.