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J&K setting benchmarks...

He directed the District Administration and all the line departments for saturation of old age, widow pensions, scholarships, marriage assistance schemes to eligible beneficiaries by organising special camps during Block Diwas.

Effective implementation of development programmes for deprived section of society, women, children and Specially-Abled is our top priority, he said.

Reviewing the progress of the Agriculture and allied sectors, the Lt Governor said, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) will bring new Agriculture revolution that is broad based and inclusive. The successful implementation of HADP is the responsibility of everyone associated with the sector; he said.

The Lt Governor further suggested for constitution of Cooperative Societies in every possible sector of rural areas to explore the possibilities for economic growth of the region.

He directed the District Agriculture Officer for increasing the registration of farmers on Daksh Portal.

The Lt Governor also reviewed the measures taken to promote tourism and industry sectors in the district.

He directed the officials to improve connectivity to tourist destinations of the district and effective measures to facilitate the tourists coming to Kulgam.

District Administration was directed to set up a help desk to facilitate establishment of Industrial units in the district.

The Lt Governor asked the officials to hold regular meetings with banks and financial institutions for timely provision of credit under different government schemes.

He further emphasized on promoting self-employment and extending support to aspiring youth of the district under the dedicated schemes of Mission Youth.

The meeting also discussed the utilisation of vacant Government buildings and encouraging youth to join NCC and Red Cross initiatives.

Later, the Lt Governor interacted with various public delegations including ULB, PRI representatives, Fruits Growers association, traders, transporters, Youth Club members, Bar Association, Gujjar Bakerwal and Pahari Community and assured speedy redressal of issues and specific grievances.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Tourism Department; Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat, DC Kulgam and other senior officers attended the meeting.

IED recovered on...

immediately", Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jammu Chandan Kohli said.

The traffic was suspended on the highway.

The suspicious object, which was found at the Panjgrain area, was an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)", SSP said.

The bomb disposal squad was called on the spot and IED has been destroyed through a controlled mechanism, SSP said.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and an investigation has been taken up, he said. Traffic was restored on the highway.

Arrests of those...

Seventeen security indicators from August 5, 2019 to June 20, 2023 showed a remarkable improvement in the overall security situation with casualties among civilians and security forces, grenade attacks, IED blasts, terrorist recruitment and stone pelting on decline after the abrogation of Article 370.

The central government had on August 5, 2019 abrogated Article 370 granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories of J-K and Ladakh.

According to the data compiled by the police, a total of 2,327 terrorists and their associates were arrested post the Article 370 abrogation compared to 427 in 2015-2019.

Coupled with a 23 per cent decrease in terrorist recruitment from 597 in 2015-2019 to 461 in 2019-2023 and killing of hundreds of terrorists, the police said, the trend suggested improved intelligence gathering, proactive measures and an effective approach to counter-terrorism operations to disrupt the terror ecosystem.

Separately, officials said over 675 terrorists were killed in separate encounters with security forces from August 5, 2019 to June 2023, against over 740 in 2015-2019.

The police data exhibited a significant downward trend in the casualties among security personnel and civilians in the last four years.

Against the killing of 329 police and security personnel in terror attacks in 2015-2019, the number of fatalities had gone down by 56 per cent with 146 deaths reported post August 5, 2019.

The injuries to police and security personnel also indicated a decline of 68 per cent with 899 personnel reported injured in pre-Article 370 abrogation and 289 post-Article 370 abrogation period, the data stated.

The number of civilians killed in terrorist violence reduced from 119 in the pre-370 period to 107 in the post-370 period, reflecting a 10 per cent decrease. The instances of civilians killed during crossfire significantly decreased from 68 in the pre-370 to nine in the post-370 period, marking 87 per cent decrease, it said.

The data revealed that the number of civilians injured decreased from 263 in the pre-370 period to 175 in the post-370 period, representing a 33 per cent decrease.

During the pre-Article 370 period, the region witnessed 162 grenade attacks. However, after the abrogation, the number reduced to 138, reflecting a 15 per cent decrease in such incidents, it said.

The number of IED blasts figures remained the same, with 19 such incidents reported in both pre and post-370 periods.

However, the casualties resulting from IED blasts significantly reduced from 57 in the pre-370 period to 13 in the post-370 period, indicating a remarkable 77 per cent decrease, the data said.

It stated that the stand-off fire and hit and run cases saw a notable decrease from 314 in the pre-370 period to 181 in the post-370 period, marking a 42 per cent decline, while the instances of weapon-snatching witnessed a substantial decrease, with the number dropping from 45 in the pre-370 period to 14 in the post-370 period, representing a 69 per cent decrease.

The police said one of the most significant changes observed was the appreciable decrease in stone pelting incidents. The pre-370 period recorded 5,063 incidents, which significantly reduced to 434 in the post-370 period, marking a remarkable 91 per cent decrease.

The number of separatist-sponsored strike calls reduced from 339 in the pre-370 period to 46 in the post-370 period, reflecting a decrease of 86 per cent, the data said.

The encounters and counter-terrorism operations decreased from 423 in the pre-370 period to 342 in the post-370 period, representing a 19 per cent decrease.

The instances of abductions reduced from 28 in the pre-370 period to nine in the post-370 period, reflecting a 68 per cent decrease, while the incidents of arson saw a significant decrease, with the number dropping from 87 in the pre-370 period to 35 in the post-370 period, marking a 60 per cent decrease.

"The comparative analysis of the security indicators reveals a positive impact on the security situation in the region following Article 370 abrogation. Decreases in various security incidents highlight an improvement in public safety and the overall security landscape," the report said, highlighting the need for vigilant efforts in counter-terrorism operations and intelligence gathering.

It said a sustained focus on implementing effective security measures, enhancing community engagement and ongoing monitoring of security indicators will be essential to maintain and further improve the security situation.

Anmol Thakur tops...

Handvara, Kathua, Rajouri or Udhampur) for medical examination on 23rd and 24th August, 2023 alongwith six photographs, the communique adds.

The Commission has congratulated Anmol Rathore, daughter of Rajiv Rathore, a Law Graduate, on topping the overall list securing 1084.50 marks.

It is pertinent to mention in January 2023, JKPSC declared the result of CCE-2021 and today, the JKPSC completed the process of selection, based on a three-tier examination comprising the preliminary, the mains and the personality test/viva voce in 16 months.

Smart Meters: JPDCL...

as a direct line of communication for consumers to report and resolve meter-related concerns.

Dedicated Nodal Officers have been appointed from various subdivisions of JPDCL to oversee the redressal of Smart Meter grievances. They will be responsible for resolving consumer complaints related to Smart Meters received through calls, SMS or WhatsApp.

Contact Information of Nodal Officers is as under:
Name of Officer Designation Division Sub Division Contact No.
Jai Pal Sharma Assistant XEN ED-I Parade Tsch Officer to XEN Parade 9419140965

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Satwinder Kour AE | ED-I Parade | SD-I Parade 7889704529 |
| Sanjeev Hans AE | ED-I Parade | SD-II Canal 9419185909 |
| Vijay Kumar AE | ED-I Parade | SD-III Parade 9419136258 |
| Amit Sethi AE | ED-I Parade | SD-IV Nagrota 9419101213 |
| Neha Salathia AE | ED-III Rehari | SD-I Canal 9419141355 |
| Sandeep Tagortra AE | ED-III Rehari | SD-II Janipur 9419304605 |
| Anjad Parvez AE | ED-II Gandhi Nagar | Div Gandhi Nagar 7006878102 |
| Vishal Anand AE | ED-II Gandhi Nagar | SD-I Greenbelt 9419185576 |
| Ashutosh Sharma AE | ED-II Gandhi Nagar | SD-II Gangyal 9419182220 |
| Abhineet Gupta AE | ED-II Gandhi Nagar | SD-III Miransahib 9622130283 |
| Lakhwinder Singh AE | ED-II Gandhi Nagar | SD-IV Bishnah 9697581334 |

For any smart meter-related concerns or queries, consumers have been urged to contact the designated helpline numbers and reach out to the appointed Nodal Officers for prompt assistance.

Court rejects bail...

fault that they had cast their votes in the favour of National Conference," it added. The court said it has arrived at the conclusion that in the given facts and circumstances, the personal liberty of the accused can be curtailed in the interest of society at large as well as taking into consideration the gravity of the charge against him.

"In view of the aforesaid discussion as well as the evidence produced during the trial before this court, the grounds stated by the learned counsel of the applicants are having no significance in the consideration of the bail application of the accused within the contours of Section 439 of CrPC," the court said.

"Hence, the bail application moved by the accused person is rejected and be made part of the main file. The case law submitted by the learned counsel of the applicant is not applicable in the given facts and circumstances of the case," it said.

Article 370 abrogation...

He said that it has integrated J&K with rest of the country and has opened new vistas of development and growth for the people.

Earlier, MY Tarigami had stated that the abrogation of Article 370 was not only an "assault" on the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir, but also on the foundations of India. He also said that if the Supreme Court does not stop the Centre's "unconstitutional move", it will have profound implications.

'Telangana people looking...

Tarun Chugh, who is also the BJP incharge for Telangana and J&K said the list of 115 candidates announced by KCR for the ensuing assembly elections actually endorses the fact that the Chief Minister, for the first time after formation of Telangana, is feeling rattled. In the run up to yesterday's announcement, lofty statements have been made about the possible changes and dropping of MLAs, as most of them have been facing serious charges of corruption and inaccessibility to the constituencies, he added.

"However, when KCR announced the list re-nominating almost all the MLAs, except in 7 places, the people, in fact, are baffled at the shamelessness of KCR and his party. Just a few days ago, while presiding over a meeting of BRS MLAs, he warned the MLAs that he had information that at least 20 MLAs are taking 30 per cent bribe in Dalith Bandhu scheme", he said, adding that when KCR stated that he had evidence to corruption and of 30 per cent bribe, the list that KCR announced would have at least 20 new candidates, that did not happen, which means he has endorsed the corruption of MLAs.

"The list that KCR announced yesterday is just an attempt to serve a heated old and rotten curry to the people, which people do not relish. Neither the wine nor the bottle is new", he added.

Chugh said that the people are frustrated with the level of corruption and simmering with anger against the KCR government for his blatant corruption. "We can understand the compulsions of KCR for he himself is corrupt and deserves Oscar for his innovation in fraudulent practices", he added.

Tarun Chugh said, "BRS is not merely corrupt, but highly hypocrite. A few days ago, KCR's daughter and BRS leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha staged a dharna in New Delhi demanding 30 percent reservation for women in assemblies and parliament. We expect BRS would follow what it preaches. However, in the list of 115 MLAs announced yesterday, there are just 4 women, which expose the hypocrisy of the BRS party", he said, asking how does Kavitha defend this blatant injustice for the cause of women in her own party?

On the other hand, Tarun Chugh said the list also exposes KCR's opportunism. "In the just concluded Munugodu elections, he made friendship with CPI and CPM, as both the parties have some presence in the constituency and declared that they would be together henceforth. Six months after the Munugodu elections, KCR treated them like stage furniture and dumped them. This is the typical KCR's way. KCR uses people for his benefit and dumps them once the job is done. This is what he had done during the separate Telangana Movement. The students, employees and the unemployed were used for the cause, but once Telangana was formed they were betrayed. The people of Telangana are aware of this hypocrisy, opportunism of KCR and they are ready with their ballot to throw BRS into Bay of Bengal".

Rahul Gandhi's bike...

Nubra valley on the motorcycle on Monday and was given a warm welcome by people in the main market in the evening. Congress spokesperson and leader of opposition in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, Tsering Namgyal told PTL.

Gandhi reached Ladakh on August 17 and is scheduled to visit Kargil in the next couple of days during his over week-long tour of the region, his first after the region was granted UT status after being carved out from Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

"Bharat Jodo is deeply rooted in every Indian's heart and mind. The resonating chant of Bharat Mata Ki Jai' echoing through the streets of Leh serves as a strong example of this unity. No power can suppress this voice, brimming with affection and camaraderie," Gandhi wrote on his social media account.

The Wayanad MP also shared pictures and a video where he was seen holding a tricolour while meeting a group of veterans on the first floor of a building and waving to cheering crowd gathering on the streets of Leh main market.

Namgyal, who took the former Congress president through the main market, said Gandhi walked to some fruit vendors on the roadside to "know about their problems amid inflation".

"The people who gathered around chanted slogans in praise of Gandhi and also took selfies with him," he said, adding Gandhi also interacted with a family living in the town.

On Saturday, Gandhi rode a motorcycle from Leh to Pangong Lake and stayed overnight to celebrate the birth anniversary of his father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi the next day.

On his return from Nubra valley on the motorcycle, Gandhi took pictures at Khardungla, the world's highest motorable road at a height of 18,380 feet.

On his way to Lamayuru along the Leh-Kargil national highway, Gandhi stopped at the famous magnetic hill and had lunch at famous Alchi Kitchen, Namgyal, who accompanied Gandhi on the trip, said.

Justice Tashi visits...

Boys "Palash" was situated having a capacity of 50 children where currently 22 inmates were present. Similar facilities were available in the said Home. During interaction with the children both at "Palaash" and "Pareesha", Justice Tashi



Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh accompanied by Rajni Rabstan, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Jahangir Bakhshi, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, during visit to "Palaash" (Children Home for Boys) and "Pareesha" (Children Home for Girls) at Nishat, Srinagar.

expressed satisfaction about the facilities and amenities being provided to the inmates. However, he expressed that the visit of doctor instead of fortnightly should be on the weekly basis. On the occasion, the children of both the Homes showcased their talent by singing solo as well as group songs and also displayed the prizes won by them in different competitions held in recent past.

Justice Tashi appreciated the efforts of Social Welfare Department in maintaining required standard of living and expected that similar kind of facilities shall be pro-

vided regularly.

SC terms as...

and said according to him, Article 370 was a defunct provision and no purpose was served having it.

"Yet the provision continued to be there in the Indian Constitution. Constitution Orders (orders applying provisions of Indian Constitution to J-K) have been issued pre-1957 and post 1957. Yet nobody thought about removing it. The association of people with Article 370 was negatory and hence nothing survives. This is your argument?" Justice Kaul summed up Dwivedi's contentions.

Dwivedi told the bench that past practices would not justify the invalidity of a provision and this is a settled law.

"The law, as I understand, is that however long a past practice is if it is constitutionally illegal, it cannot be justified. What I am trying to show is the intent of our Constitution framers. We cannot read Article 370 dehors (other than) the intent is my question," he said.

Justice Kaul said it is difficult to accept that the constituent assembly debates amount to an assurance that Article 370 would dissolve itself after the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir has been enacted and term of the state's constituent assembly comes to an end. Senior advocate CU Singh, appearing for Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami and others challenged the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 and said the erstwhile state could not be divided into two union territories. The hearing remained inconclusive and will continue on Wednesday. Several petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

Police warns rumour...

been thoroughly investigated by police officers and an executive magistrate from the area. "Additionally, medical experts are providing their opinion on the situation and if any wrongdoing by the cattle owner is found in the report of veterinary experts, necessary action under the law will be taken against the culprits accordingly," the statement said. In the interest of peace and harmony in the district, the police urged the general public to refrain from sharing any content related to the incident on social media. "Please abstain from spreading any further rumours.

Those found engaging in such behaviour will be subject to legal consequences," it said.

11 persons arrested, 11 vehicles seized for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have arrested 11 persons and seized 11 vehicles in Baramulla.

Police parties under the supervision of SDPO Pattan Shri Mohd Nawaz-JKPS assisted by SHO PS Pattan, IC PP Kungambara, IC PP Mirgund & IC PP Wussan, seized 09 vehicles (04 tractors & 05 tippers) and arrested 09 drivers for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Kalsari Pattan, Khore Sherabad Pattan, Jheel Singhpora Pattan & Goshugh Pattan in separate incidents. They have been identified as Adil Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Ramzan & Saqib Ahmad Mir son of Fayaz Ahmad, both residents of Kalsari Pattan, Arif Ahmad Shah son of Ab Rashid Shah resident of Khore Sherabad, Hashim Ali Reshi son of Mohd Maqbool resident of Hanjiwera Payeen, Showkat Ahmad Khan son of Asgar Khan resident of Matipora & Inuran Husain Malla son of Gh Mohammad resident of Gund Khawaja Qasim, Danish Ahmad Malla son of Nazir Ahmad resident of Shilvat Bandipora, Shahir Ahmad Mir son of Gh Hassan resident of Sheikh Zoo Ganderbal & Manzoor Ahmad Ganie son of Gh Rasool resident of Batwen Ganderbal.

Similarly, a police party under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg Shri Intiaz Ahmed-JKPS assisted by SHO PS Tangmarg, seized 02 tractors and arrested 02 drivers for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Druuroo Tangmarg. They have been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Reshi son of Gh Ahmad resident of Shrai & Rouf Ahmad Kumar son of Ab Raheem resident of Hajibal Tangmarg. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been taken up.

Rape accused arrested within hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Police in Baramulla have arrested a rape accused within hours after a complaint was filed.

Police Station Baramulla received a written complaint from a minor girl (name withheld) stating therein that she was abducted by one person namely Mohammad Umar Parry (Venture Driver) son of Mohammad Amin Parry resident of Parry Mohalla Sangri and raped her at secluded place in Sangri.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Baramulla and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, officers utilized technical & human sources and after strenuous efforts, traced and arrested the accused person within hours after the complaint was received.

Further medico-legal formalities have been conducted and further investigation of the case is in progress.

JKMPCL holds 19th Annual General Body Meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 19th Annual General body meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Milk Producers' Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL) was held at Teachers Bhawan Gandhi Nagar Jammu under the Chairmanship of A. K Angurana, (Retd.), Chairman, Board of JKMPCL. Jayen Mehta, Managing Director GCMMP Ltd. also attended the meeting.

This Annual General Body Meeting was also attended by Elected Board Directors of JKMPCL along with 211 Chairmen/members of Village Dairy Cooperative Societies from Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chairman said, JKMPCL has emerged as the apex dairy cooperative organization of J&K, empowering thousands of milk producers by supporting their livelihoods, along with ensuring consistent supply of quality milk and milk products to our valued consumers. JKMPCL's success story would not have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of our farmer-members, the visionary leadership from GCMMP (Amul), and the trust and faith bestowed upon us by our shareholders (i.e., village-level dairy cooperatives associated with JKMPCL) and certainly the hard work and perseverance of our employees.

He said that he is proud of the collective accomplishments of JKMPCL as we have witnessed consistent growth in the milk procurement, processing capacity and market presence. It merits a mention that during the last year, despite disruptive situation due to eruption of Lumpy Skin Disease among the cattle, we have achieved 19% growth in sales turnover and for the first time JKMPCL crossed Rs 270 Crore turnover. He said JKMPCL initiated a program for the distribution of free medicines to combat the eruption of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) which affected thousands of cattle across Jammu and Kashmir. Recognizing the importance of tackling the situation of LSD eruption, JKMPCL took the timely initiative to provide more than 12.5 lakh free medicines to assist our farmer-members to contain the epidemic of Lumpy Skin Disease and salvage the farmers from heavy economic losses. During the year 2022-23, JKMPCL also managed to distribute around 1 lakh medicine for deworming of cattle among the milk producing farmers.

US envoy calls on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Graham Mayer, Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs, Embassy of United States of America in New Delhi, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Tuesday. Gary Applegarth, First Secretary and Abhiram Ghadyalpatil, Political Specialist, US Embassy in New Delhi were also present.



LG Manoj Sinha meeting Graham Mayer, Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs, Embassy of United States of America in New Delhi.