

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Terrorists must be...

connect all infrastructure and to provide innovative solutions for better coordination between services.

Technology-powered My Srinagar Portal and App, initiatives such as "SMC Srinagar new Web Portal", "My City My Ideas" will improve the quality of services and it will also strengthen the contact between citizens and the city administration, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor commended the efforts of the Municipal Corporations, Srinagar Smart City Limited and line departments for making the life of common citizens better and providing quality services for ease of living.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor called upon the people of Jammu Kashmir to identify the elements who are trying to create disruption in the peace and development process.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also inaugurated Srinagar Data Network (SD-Net), the 175 Km underground City's Fibre Optic Intra-Net under Srinagar Smart City. The Data Network project will make Srinagar a connected city, foster smart governance for the well-being of residents.

Jumaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC said the inauguration of various initiatives of Srinagar Smart City today is another milestone towards developing Srinagar as a vibrant and sustainable city.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary impressed on Srinagar Smart City Ltd and all stakeholder departments to move ahead with a resolution to make Srinagar a more happening and modern city and chalk out modalities for a self-sustaining model of governance.

Athar Amir Khan, Commissioner SMC and CEO Srinagar Smart City gave a detailed overview of the key features of projects inaugurated today.

The Lt Governor also visited the network operations centre of the Integrated Command & Control Centre and took appraisal of the working of the centre.

Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, senior officers; representatives of Praja Foundation; members from trade fraternity and civil society were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Srivastava, Ambassador Designate of India to Slovak Republic called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, here on Thursday.

The meeting discussed a range of issues that covered various sectors of J&K UT including trade & investment and promotion of foreign tourism.

ACB arrests revenue...

accused public servant as provided under law", it reads. On receipt of the complaint, a Case FIR No. 14/2023 under section 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up.

The statement further reads that 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 2000 from the complainant. The money was recovered from the accused on spot.

The accused has been identified as Fayaz Ahmad Shora, son of Allaud-Din Shora, resident of Hassanabad Beerwa, Senior Assistant/ In-Charge Nazir Tehsil Office Khag. It reads that further investigation into the case is going on.

Lal Chowk's iconic...

the past seven months due to the maintenance work, yet hopes in the end it will be all worth the trouble.

"For the past seven to eight months, renovation has been going on. Although we are suffering tremendously, we hope to see better days European design is being used in the construction of the Clock Tower. We have been told that we will see Paris in Srinagar now," Suhail Shah, vice president Lal Chowk traders association, said.

Shah said the traders' hope that the construction will be over by the middle of August.

"We have been given assurance by the SMC Commissioner and CEO Smart City Athar Amir Khan that we will see a new Lal Chowk after August 15," he said.

Sadiya, another city resident, expects the Ghanta Ghar will be another option for the people of the city to hang out after the Polo View market.

"Revamping is good as it will be a change of scene for everyone. Earlier, the Polo View market was renovated and it has become very beautiful and has turned into a tourist hot spot," said Sadiya, upbeat despite the dug up roads.

"It is a bit inconvenient the way the roads have been dug up but it is just a matter of time and it will be sorted. We will be left with a beautiful structure. Kashmir will be on the map for the recreational activities," she said.

Athar Amir Khan, who is also the Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, said Lal Chowk, being a historical place, is now being turned into a space which can appeal to the youths too.

"It is one of the most prominent and well recognized places in Srinagar. It is part of the central business and hub of commercial activity. We have designed it in such a way, like who did the Polo View market, that it becomes a public space.

"A lot of tourists and locals come and stay here till late evening. Similarly the idea is to turn entire Lal Chowk into a tourist hub, like Dal lake and Nishat," Khan said.

He said the Clock Tower is just one part of the project which also plans to give a facelift to entire Residency Road, Jehangir Chowk, Karan Nagar, and Batamalo areas as part of the central business upgrade.

"We hope to complete the entire project in the next 40 to 45 days," Khan added.

'Meri Maati Mera...

Desh' campaign during his Mann Ki Baat broadcast. This campaign aims to honour the brave freedom fighters and bravehearts who

sacrificed their lives for the country.

The campaign will include various programmes across the country to remember the bravehearts (Veers). Shilapalalaks (memorial plaques) commemorating them will be installed in gram Panchayats, close to Amrit Sarovars.

Secretary, Culture Govind Mohan and Secretary, Youth Affairs, Meeta Rajivlochan also addressed the press conference. CEO Prasara Bharati Gaurav Dwivedi was also present.

Govind Mohan in his presentation informed that the campaign will feature programs like the establishment of Shilapalalaks dedicated to freedom fighters and security forces, as well as initiatives like Panch Pran Pledge, Vasudha Vandan, Veeron ka Vandan which venerates the gallant sacrifices of our bravehearts. Shilapalalak or Memorial plaques saluting the spirit of sacrifice of local bravehearts from the village, panchayat, block, town, city, municipality etc. are to be erected across urban and rural areas. It will have Prime Minister's message with the names of those who have laid down their lives for the nation belonging to that region.

Govind Mohan said that this campaign is the concluding event of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', which began on 12th March, 2021, and has witnessed widespread public participation (Jan Bhagidari) with over 2 lakh programs organized across India. From 9th- 30th August, 2023, the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign will include programs at the village, and block levels, by local urban bodies, as well as state and national level.

He further elaborated that an 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' will be conducted, carrying soil from all corners of the country in 7500 kalash to create an 'Amrit Vatika' in Delhi This 'Amrit Vatika' will symbolize the commitment to 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

Giving further details, Culture Secretary said that to encourage mass participation (Jan Bhagidari), a website, <https://merimaatimeradesh.gov.in>, has been launched where people can upload selfies holding soil or an earthen lamp. By doing so, they take the pledge of Panch Pran, with focus to make India a developed country, eliminate the mentality of slavery, be proud of our rich heritage, uphold unity and solidarity, fulfill duties as citizens, and respect those who protect the nation. Once the pledge is taken, a digital certificate of participation can be downloaded from the website.

Last year, "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme, became a grand success owing to participation of one and all. This year too, Har Ghar Tiranga will be celebrated between 13th -15th August, 2023. Indians everywhere can hoist the national flag, click selfie with the Tiranga and upload on Har Ghar Tiranga website. (harghartiranga.com).

Meeta Rajivlochan informed that the details of the nationwide campaign can be accessed on the portal https://yuva.gov.in/meri_maati_mera_desh. Not only will the portal contain relevant information on various activities under Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign, the youth can also join the campaign through this portal by uploading their activities like selfies and planting of saplings on this website. She urged the youth to take part in the campaign with enthusiasm and to also engage all around them in the nationwide effort to pay tribute to our Bravehearts and our Motherland.

Terrorist associate detained...

the detained terrorist associate was previously involved in anti-national activities and, accordingly, was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Butt is facing trial in the case in an NIA court, he added.

Poswal said Butt's current activities were prejudicial to the security of the country and his free movements in the society might create circumstances for the radicalisation of the youth.

Accordingly, he was detained under the PSA and lodged at district jail Kishtwar, the SSP added.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

The police is committed to uphold the rule of law while ensuring that civil liberties are respected, Poswal said.

He said the police force is employing a multi-pronged approach to address the issue of anti-national elements. He said anti-national activities will not be tolerated at any cost.

Narco-terrorism case...

Nazir Hussain, resident of Gursai Tehsil Mendhar Poonch.

The raids were also conducted in Rajouri in the houses of two suspects namely Muzaffar Iqbal, son of Mohd Younis, resident of Ghambir Mughlan District Rajouri and Mohd Yaseen, son of Lal Din, resident of Kotli veer Badesar Rajouri.

Searches were conducted with cooperation with local police and administration. Incriminating material and electronic devices have been seized for further investigation. According to officials, the case relates to notorious drug peddler Rafiq Lala, who was arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA) early this year.

The SIA had taken his remand on July 1 for questioning over his alleged links across the border. On March 3, seven kilograms of heroin, more than Rs 2 crore in cash and a pistol along with some ammunition were recovered from the house of Lala.

J&K stayed with...

and Kashmir said. "You have to realise a Muslim majority state decided to remain in a Hindu majority India. We could have gone to Pakistan, what brought us here was Gandhi and his utterance that this nation is for all," he said, adding that communal division is on the rise in the country.

"Kashmir never asked for independence, we are part of this nation," he said, adding that it has been in turmoil since independence.

"Delhi has played its game and it continues to play its game. It was the same in first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's time, it is the same today," he said.

Abdullah also said there was a trust deficit with the government.

He also stressed on the need for a dialogue with Pakistan and said, "Whether they

agree or not, as long as there is no dialogue with Pakistan infiltrations will continue and many will die... Any tragedy between India and Pakistan affects Muslims in India in a great manner... Who are you to decide if I'm Pakistani or Indian."

Addressing the gathering, Yechury said what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir is not only a humanitarian issue but destruction of the India that was created after independence.

Referring to the government's claims about normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, Yechury questioned why elections were still not being held there.

"This must be treated as abnormal... elections should be held in J&K immediately," he said. Extending his support to the demand for elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said it is shameful that elections have not been held there for nine years. He also stressed on the need for humanitarian approach in search and cordon operations, and raised concern over the increase in the number of deaths of security personnel.

RJD MP Manoj Jha referred to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and called it a party which is known for "burning bridges", not building them.

"It's not only about Kashmir. They are using it as fodder in north Indian politics. Unless that fodder is challenged it will be difficult," he said.

Is there no...

anything in this Constitution, Parliament may in exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in this article.

In the landmark Kesavananda Bharati verdict of 1973, the top court had pronounced the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution and held that certain fundamental features such as democracy, secularism, federalism and rule of law cannot be amended by Parliament.

Sibal stuck to his stand that in the absence of a constituent assembly, the provision has acquired a permanent status and the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir says that no bill for modification or abrogation of Article 370 can be moved in the legislative assembly.

"How would you then put into place the constitutional machinery? It cannot be that because there is no constituent assembly, you cannot at all deliberate upon a proposal for abrogation or modification of Article 370," the CJI said.

Sibal said though many people feel that the provision should go there has to be a constitutional way of doing it and that he is not going to tell the other side how to do it.

"You can't introduce a bill in Parliament at 11 am and pass a resolution without anyone knowing about it," the senior lawyer said, asserting the bill for abrogating Article 370 was passed without proper discussion.

He said abrogating the provision is a political process but it should fit within the constitutional scheme.

Article 370 has been titled as "Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir" in Part XXI of the Constitution.

"The top court had on Wednesday referred to proviso 3 of Article 370 which says, "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify, provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification."

Many feel since Article 370 itself spoke of the way it can become inoperative; the framers of the Constitution did not intend the provision to be permanent.

Sibal has been arguing that the constituent assembly, which existed for seven years between 1951 and 1957, alone was given the power to recommend modifications to Article 370. Since it ceased to exist after drafting the Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir, the provision acquired a permanent status.

He has said Parliament of India could not have assumed the powers of the non-existent constituent assembly and abrogated Article 370.

The hearing in the matter remained inclusive and will resume on August 8.

On Wednesday, the apex court had asked who can recommend the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir when no constituent assembly exists there.

The top court had asked as to how can a provision (Article 370), which was specifically mentioned as a temporary provision in the Constitution, become permanent after tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly came to an end in 1957.

Several petitions challenging 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.

Over 1,100 Amarnath...

commencement of the Yatra on July 1, the officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to Amarnath shrine commenced from the twin tracks - the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal -- on July 1.

In the early hours of Thursday, 1,198 pilgrims -- 1,023 men, 116 women, 58 seers and a child -- left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in a convoy of 43 vehicles, the officials said.

As many as 932 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 33 vehicles, while another convoy of 10 vehicles carrying 266 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp, they added. The Yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

Army jawan who...

medical checkup. Further details shall follow," Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said in a tweet.

Although police did not divulge any details about Wani's missing case earlier, there were fears that he might have been abducted by terrorists.

Uday, Rajni Bala protests against Govt's move on Smart Meters, Property Tax

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Uday Bhanu Chib along with Rajni Bala Corporator Ward No 60 organized a protest on Thursday against the recent decision of the government to switch from Smart Electricity Meters to Prepaid Meters and imposition of property tax in Jammu.

In this regard, senior Congress leaders Hari Singh Chib, President DDC Rural, Yogesh Sawhney, President DCC Urban and former Minister, Uday Chib, President J&KPYC, Rajni Bala, Councillor Ward 60 and senior Congress leader along with workers and supporters assembled in Jammu North Assembly segment and staged vigorous Massive protest against the government.

Talking to reporters, Yogesh Sawhney, President of DDC Jammu Urban and former minister, expressed his disappointment with the BJP's failure to meet the aspirations of the J&K people. He highlighted the current state of dissatisfaction and distress among the citizens, stating that there is a hue and cry everywhere.

Hari Singh Chib highlighted the failure of the present government in fulfilling the aspirations of the J&K people. He voiced his concerns about the government's actions, stating that they are



Uday Bhanu Chib along with Corporator Rajni Bala and others staging protest in Jammu.

working against the wishes and aspirations of the general public.

Hari Singh Chib criticized the Mayor of Jammu for misleading the people with false information regarding the government's purchase of power at Rs 9 per unit. Chib revealed that the actual price at which the government is purchasing power is Rs 3.75 per unit. He emphasized the need for integrity in high-ranking officials, such as the Mayor, and urged him to refrain from making misleading statements.

Rajni Bala, Councillor of Ward No 60 and senior Congress leader, criticized the government's decision to impose property tax on the people of Jammu. She pointed out that the government did not even bother to consult elected representatives before imposing this tax in the state. Bala emphasized the importance of inclusive

decision-making and urged the government to consider the views of those who represent the people.

Uday Chib, President of J&K Pradesh Youth Congress, shed light on the challenges faced by the youth as a result of hollow policies implemented by the BJP government at the Centre. He shared that nearly eight lakhs youth are unemployed in J&K alone, which is a matter of serious concern. Chib expressed his disappointment with the lack of comprehensive policies for the youth and urged the people to support and strengthen the Congress party to rid themselves of the hollow policies of BJP misrule.

The protesting Congress leaders asked the government to reconsider its decisions and prioritize the welfare of the J&K people. They urged the general public to support and strengthen the

Congress party to bring about meaningful change and alleviate the challenges faced by the community.

Among those who joined the protest include Som Nath Sharma President BCC Pata Paloura, Om Parkash, Anirudh Sawhney, Shahbaz Khan, Dev Raj, HS Baghi, Surinder, Rishiv Kumar, Pummy Manhas, Dr Chander Mohan Sharma, Dr Raj Pal Hans, Tarun Vaid, Virender Mehta, Shinda, Parveen Akhtar, Raj Bibi, Ch Afiz, Harjeet Singh, Capt Khushi Ram, Jung Bahadur Singh, Kamal Singh, Billa, Veena Devi, Poli Devi, Darshna Devi, Mamta Gupta, Madan Singh Chib, Sonu and Rahul Padha.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba gets another one-year extension

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba was on Thursday given one-year extension, beyond August 30, 2023, in service by the government, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

This is his third extension on the post. Gauba, a former Union home secretary, was in 2019 appointed to the country's top bureaucratic post for two years. He was given one-year extension in 2021 and then in August last year.

District Shopian Volleyball Championship 2023 begins



Organisers along with players posing for photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: District Shopian volleyball Championship, organised by Cambridge Volleyball Club of Shopian under the banner of Volleyball Association of J&K and sponsored by J&K Sports Council, commenced on Thursday.

As per the officials, a total of 20 teams including 16 boys and 4 girls are participating in the championship.

In the inaugural match, Cambridge Volleyball Club beat GDC Shopian by 2-0 (25-22, 25-21).

Earlier, the championship was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr. Mohd Shafi, Principal of Govt. Degree College Shopian in presence of Guest of Honour, Nelofer Habib, Secretary of District Kulgam Volleyball Association.

architect of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, under which the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two Union territories following the abrogation of the special status given to it under Article 370 of the Constitution. Born in Punjab, Gauba had graduated in Physics from the Patna University. He had served in Jharkhand as chief secretary for 15 months before returning to serve in the central government in 2016.

Gauba is said to be the key

Kuldeep Gupta meets President Asian Kabaddi Federation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Executive Officer of Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association and Technical Delegate 19th Asian Games Kuldeep Kumar Gupta met President Vinod Tiwari Asian Kabaddi Federation in the technical delegate Conference held at Hangzhou, China.

During the conversation Gupta briefed to Tiwari that Kabaddi is the one of the best popular discipline among all other games in TRP after Cricket Game in India.

Gupta talked about the programmes and plans need to be undertaken for widening and strengthening the gross root level Kabaddi and the methodologies to be adopted for producing International talent from Jammu & Kashmir as the young youth of J&K follow it and love it to play in each nook and corner of the Union Territory of J&K.

Moreover Gupta briefed to Tiwari that Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council under the dynamic Secretary Nazhat Gul has constructed individual Kabaddi Stadium on the patron of International level in Jammu which is one of the best Kabaddi Stadium in the North Zone of India.

After interactions with President Asian Kabaddi Federation, its privilege and honour to meet the dignity who are governing Kabaddi

in Asia and International Level, hopefully and sure support, Jammu & Kashmir will take new height in coming future under the dynamic leadership and guidance of President Anil Gupta (Anu) and General Secretary Surinder Mohan and the last but not least Kuldeep Kumar Gupta told the most important thing is the heart and passion which we have in Kabaddi game and Kabaddi has big fan following in entire Jammu & Kashmir with youngster play the game in School level, College level as well as University level in Boys and Girls section also.

After interacting with Vinod Tiwari President Asian Kabaddi Federation appreciated the efforts of Secretary J&K sports council for providing the International level Standard platform to young and building Player of Kabaddi discipline in J&K and also assured to Gupta, we will plan and provide special facility to develop Kabaddi in J&K and provide the opportunity to building players among the young youth of J&K in the International arena so that they will get a chance to play with International players in the exhibition matches and with this they will get exposure and might be get a chance in Prestiges event "Pro Kabaddi" in India and make their presentation in International events also.