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J&K proud to...

awarded the certificate of 'World Craft City' by World Crafts Council (WCC). It's a great honour for the ancient city known for its priceless cultural and artistic heritage. It will go a long way to preserve and promote J&K's crafts and craftsmanship," he said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the World Crafts Council for its endeavours to inspire and promote the artistic traditions of the cities across the world.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts of the UT Administration to preserve and promote the unique cultural and artistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the artisans and craftspeople of J&K.

Jammu Kashmir is known as a Crown Jewel of India not only because of its geographical position but also because of its quest for spiritual wisdom and its ageless Indian cultural assets, which can be witnessed in the infinite variety of creative products, the Lt Governor observed.

He reiterated the commitment of UT Administration to support the artisans in marketing and exports of handicrafts, handloom products and promotion of all craft forms.

We are giving greater attention to training of young generation of craftspeople so they can be part of this traditional occupation, the Lt Governor said.

He said the UT Administration is also determined to ensure that their creative products are financially attractive and the work is professionally satisfying.

The Lt Governor commended the efforts of Handloom and Handicraft department and the Industries and Commerce department for leading the change in the vital sector of J&K's economy.

"I am sure the recognition of Srinagar now as 'World Craft City' will not only provide a new identity to Srinagar in the global market but craftsmanship will re-establish its position as a prestigious occupation," the Lt Governor said.

Speaking on the occasion, Sa'ad Hani Al-Qaddumi, President World Crafts Council International, congratulated the J&K Government on the recognition of Srinagar as 'World Craft City'. Srinagar has joined the well-deserved ranks amongst the craft cities across the world, he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a publication depicting the 60-years journey of World Crafts Council.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, J&K KVIB; Heads of Departments, members of the World Crafts Council, and artisans and craftspeople in large number were present.

Justice Tashi inaugurates...

and Sessions Judge Leh, Judicial Officers, Abdul Mutalib Chief Engineer PWD, Dorjay Gyatso, Supnt. Engineer PWD, Nawang Norboo, Sr. PO. alongwith his team, Mohammad Shafi President Bar Association, Leh alongwith Bar Members, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Staff Members, Panel Lawyers and PLVs through physical mode.

The programme commenced with formal welcome by Spalzes Angmo, Member Secretary LLSA/ Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh, whereas, vote of thanks was proposed by Mohammad Shafi President Bar Association Leh. The programme was coordinated and conducted by Phuntsog Angmo, Secretary DLSA Leh.

Wayanad landslides: 167...

into the remains of houses destroyed or covered up with mud in the landslides.

The landslides occurred around 2 am and 4.10 am on Tuesday, catching people off-guard while they were sleeping, leading to a high number of casualties.

Massive landslides triggered by torrential rains struck the picturesque hamlets of Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha, leaving behind a trail of death, destruction and despair.

LG launches 'Swachhta...

in the country. On the occasion, the Lt Governor gave four resolutions to the citizens of Jammu Kashmir- Villages & Wards should be Clean, Healthy, Green and there should be sufficient water in our Villages & Wards.

He appealed to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to participate enthusiastically in the Swachhta Pakhwada and work towards promoting the use of safe sanitation practices and ensuring proper disposal of liquid and solid waste.

It is our collective responsibility that the home we live in, the office we work in, and our places of worship are clean, the Lt Governor said.

There must be healthy competition in every Panchayat to achieve the goal of clean and green village and all Panchayats should lay special emphasis on innovative solutions to address the local challenges, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the dedicated measures taken by the UT Administration, to realise Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Swachh Bharat. This year, 1000 community sanitary complexes will be built in rural areas by the Rural Sanitation department which will prove to be a milestone for the health and overall well-being of the citizens, he said.

The occasion witnessed the launch of series of initiatives by the Lt Governor including Shuchitasangram.in website for information and monitoring of Swachhta Pakhwada activities, signature campaign on Swachhta Pledge, Annual Implementation Plan FY 2024-25 under SBM(G), comic book on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and a 6-week training program for Panchayat Secretaries.

The Lt Governor also inaugurated various projects under SBM(G) and flagged off 'Swachhta Karwaan' under Swachhta Pakhwada. In presence of Lt Governor, Rural Sanitation and Agriculture Department inked a Memorandum of Understanding for marketing of compost.

At the outset, the Lt Governor planted a tree sapling under the 'Ek Ped Shaheedon ke Naam' campaign.

He also visited the Swachhta Exhibition highlighting innovative measures adopted by the Rural Development Department and interacted with students participating in Painting/Drawing competition on Swachhta.

Swachhta Pledge in schools, colleges and offices; cleanliness drives at bus stands, railway stations and other public & market places; orientation programs and health camps for sanitation workers and Swachhata Gram Sabhas will also be organized during the Swachhta Pakhwada.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti; Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Anu Malhotra, Director General, Rural Sanitation, senior Officials, sanitation workers and various stakeholders were present on the occasion.

WP Refugee families...

"Vesting of proprietary rights to West Pakistan Displaced Persons on State land would bring them at par with the displaced persons of Pakistan-Occupied J&K and their long pending demand will also be fulfilled," the spokesman said.

The administrative council also approved conferment of proprietary rights upon displaced persons of 1965 in respect of state land.

The government has always remained committed to provide benefits to the displaced persons of 1965 as has been granted to displaced persons of 1947 and 1971, the spokesman said.

He said the revenue department shall ensure that proper safeguards are built in the operational guidelines to prevent any misuse particularly unauthorized encroachments on the state land.

Pakistan Refugees Action Committee president Laba Ram Gandhi thanked the Lt Governor for the decision and said the news has brought smiles on the faces of the community living in different parts of Jammu for the past over seven decades.

"We are very happy about the development. The land was already with us, some of which was given by the government for our settlement or earned by our people through hardwork. Some two years back, the land was taken away from us and included in state land," Gandhi said.

Gandhi, who led a celebratory rally at Maharaja Hari Singh Park, said the decision of the Lt Governor administration came as a big relief to the community which was left disappointed and approached the government for redressal of their grievances.

"With granting of proprietary rights over land, we are now the true citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding as per the official records, there were 5,764 families who migrated from West Pakistan into India and settled in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947. Gandhi said over 46,000 kanals of state land was given to the displaced community, which had always felt discriminated against before the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

"Before 2019, we were only eligible to vote in the parliamentary elections and had no say in assembly or local body elections. The time has changed and we have got our genuine rights. We can now vote in panchayat and assembly polls and even put up our candidates," he said.

They distributed sweets and raised slogans in praise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sinha.

Notorious drug smuggler booked under PIT NDPS Act

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police booked notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention order from competent authority.

The notorious drug smuggler namely Nazir Ahmad Gargroo @Nazira son of Abdul Karim resident of Arampora, District Baramulla was booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said drug smuggler. He was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Sheeri, Fatehgarh, Old Town, New Town, Kanispora, Delina & other areas of District. Despite his involvement in many FIRs, he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

General public has appreciated the role of Police for their action against drug peddlers/smugglers. Consistent actions against the drug peddlers should reassure the community members that police are making all efforts to keep our society free from drug abuse.

Pindi Sarochan case: Fourth accused arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In Pindi Sarochan case, police on Wednesday nabbed fourth accused person.

On 24th July 2024, a case FIR No. 40/2024 was registered at Police Station Arnia U/S 109 BNS, in which one person namely Jagdish Raj, son of Manohar Lal, resident of Pindi Sarochan was assaulted & brutally injured, who later on while undergoing treatment succumbed to his injuries.

It is pertinent to mention here that today, Arnia Police after making hectic efforts arrested fourth accused namely Sohan Lal, son of Prakash Chand, resident of Pindi Sarochan, Arnia.

It is pertinent to here mention here that police had already arrested three accused (husband, Wife and son) involved in the incident & they have been identified as Jagmohan, son of Prakash Chand, resident of Pindi Sarochan, Arnia; Ashu Devi, wife of Jagmohan and Gara Ram, son of Jagmohan, resident of Pindi Sarochan.

Police has already invoked section 103 BNS in the instant case during the investigation. Earlier investigation of the case was undergoing under section 109 BNS

Further investigation of the case is underway, now the JKP has booked four accused persons involved in the said case.

DB closes suo-motu PIL after man's body is retrieved from Pakistan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Acting Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Puneet Gupta closed the suo-motu petition registered by the Court earlier this month to ensure the

retrieval of his body. Govt retrieved the body from Pakistan.

The Deputy Solicitor General of India Vishal Sharma informed the Court that the body of the deceased, Harsh Nagotra was handed over to the family members who cremated him on July 28 as per Hindu rites.

After recording this development, the Court has closed the suo motu case.

"In view of the statement made by the counsel for the respondents, this PIL has been rendered infructuous and the same is, accordingly, disposed of," the Court said.

DB dismisses appeal of PHE, directs regularization of daily rated workers who completed seven years

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Acting Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Puneet Gupta dismissed the appeal of UT, directed UT to regularize the services of writ petitioners on the analogy of persons who came to be regularized in March, 2006 in terms of SRO 64 of 1994.

This appeal is directed against the judgment dated October 29, 2013 delivered by the learned Single Bench in SWP No.838/2010, whereby the writ respondents were directed to pass fresh order for the purposes of regularizing the services of writ petitioners. The facts-in-brief are that the writ petitioners came to be appointed as Daily Wagers/Daily Rated Workers between the years 1986 to 1994. The writ respondents vide Government Order No.138-PW(Hyd) of 2006 dated February 17, 2006 regularized the services of various daily rated workers of various divisions of Jammu, Doda, Reasi etc. after completion of seven years of their services, but the petitioners and other similarly situated persons were left out though they had also completed seven years of service.

Feeling aggrieved, the writ petitioners filed SWP No.838/2010. In the said petition, learned AAG sought disposal of the petition on the ground that the writ respondents be directed to consider the case of writ petitioners for regularization in case they were eligible under rules. Accordingly, the said writ petition came to be disposed of on December 28, 2010 with a direction to the writ respondents that if the writ petitioners have completed seven years of service as provided under SRO 64 of 1994, regularization orders would be issued in their favour within a period of one month. Compliance report was directed to be filed on April 1, 2011, for which the index of the case was directed to be maintained and listed on April 1, 2011. DB after hearing both the sides observed that any casual labourer, who has continued for a fairly long spell, a presumption would arise that there was a regular need for his services and in such a situation, a person cannot be deprived of right of regularization, which he has earned by serving the Department for more than seven years on the plea that he was only a casual labour and not a daily rated worker entitled to be regularized in terms of SRO 64 of 1994.

DB after quoted various judgments of Apex Court, observed that "we are not inclined to take a view other than the one taken by the Single Judge". Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed and the judgment/order of learned Single Judge is upheld. Appellants/writ respondents to regularize the services of writ petitioners on the analogy of persons who came to be regularized in March, 2006 in terms of SRO 64 of 1994, DB held.

SVMCMC Hospital holds three-day cancer awareness programme

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the leadership of Anil Gupta, President of Swami Vivekanand Medical Mission Charitable (SVMCMC) Hospital, Ambhalla, a three-day cancer awareness and navigation program was successfully conducted in collaboration with UHAPO, a Mumbai-based cancer society.

This initiative, part of the newly launched cancer patient navigation program at the hospital, aimed to offer comprehensive support to cancer patients and their families. The program began on July 29, 2024, at Saraswati Agrochemical India Pvt. Ltd., engaging workers and administrative staff in informative sessions.

The following day, awareness sessions were held at Shiksha Bhawan Higher Secondary School and Government Girls Higher Secondary School, reaching approximately 70 and 300 participants, respectively.

The final day's session took place at the Swami Vivekanand Medical Mission Charitable Hospital, involving doctors, staff, patients, and attendants.

Key speakers included Vivek Sharma, UHAPO founder, who discussed cancer types and preventive measures, and Anita Gupta, a cancer care coach and survivor, who highlighted the social and emotional support needed during a cancer journey.

The event was supported by key members from both UHAPO and the hospital namely Amar Chand Gupta, Senior Vice President, Atma Saroup Gupta Vice President, B.B. Gupta General Secretary, B.S. Jamwal Secretary, Dr. Sachin Gupta Member, Mohan Singh Chauhan Treasurer, Dr Ramesh Gupta Administrator, Ashish Dutta Cancer Navigator and Iqbal Deep Singh Manager, Hospital.

Gratitude was expressed to Shailendra Chourey of Saraswati Agrochemical, Principal Sanjeev Gupta of Shiksha Bhawan, and Principal Ami Bhardwaj of Government Girls Higher Secondary School for their cooperation.

The successful program underscores the hospital's commitment to cancer awareness and patient support, with a vote of thanks delivered by B.B. Gupta, General Secretary.

Inter-Zonal Dist level tournament concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: The Department of Youth Services & Sports successfully concluded the Inter-Zonal District Level Athletics Meet for U/14 and U/17 boys today in Kishtwar. This annual event, aimed at promoting sportsmanship and physical fitness among young athletes, witnessed enthusiastic participation from various zones across the district.

In his address, DYSSO Kishtwar, Jaffer Haider Sheikh, encouraged all participants to continue their practice and work hard. He emphasized the importance of perseverance and commitment in achieving success in sports and beyond. The motivational words of DYSSO inspired the young athletes to give their best and strive for excellence.

The tournament featured a range of athletic events, including sprints, long-distance races, and field events such as long jump, high jump, and shot put. The young athletes displayed remarkable talent and determination, making the competition fierce and exciting.

Officials from the Department of Youth Services & Sports emphasized the importance of such events in fostering a spirit of healthy competition and teamwork among students. They also highlighted the role of sports in the holistic development of youth, contributing to their

physical well-being and character building.

The closing ceremony was graced by DYSSO, Jaffer Haider Sheikh, who lauded the efforts of the participants, coaches, PEMS, PETS, REKs, GMs, and NYCs. Awards and certificates were distributed to the winners and runners-up, acknowledging their hard work and dedication.

This Inter-Zonal District Level Athletics Meet has set a benchmark for future events, encouraging more students to take up sports and pursue excellence in athletics. The Department of Youth Services & Sports remains committed to providing a platform for young athletes to showcase their talents and achieve their potential.

It was informed by the officials that during the tournament 1st Position secured by Kishtwar Zone while 2nd Position by Indermal Zone and the 3rd Position by Nagseni Zone.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police Traffic City Jammu Faisal Qureshi, on Wednesday presented a note of recognition to Sub Inspector Ram Paul upon his superannuation after rendering 40 years of unblemished service in J&K Police.

Raj Pal Singh, Additional SP Traffic City Jammu, Bikram

DC Jammu listens to public issues at Arnia, encourages farmers to get benefit from PM KUSUM



Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya listening to public issues.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a bid to address the public issues, Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Wednesday chaired the Block Divas at tehsil Arnia. The event saw the active participation of public representatives, former PRI members and a significant turnout of the local population.

Sub Divisional Magistrate Jammu South, Atul Dutt Sharma, Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh and

other concerned officers from different departments were also present at the public meeting.

The occasion provided an opportunity for the residents to voice their grievances, which prominently included the issues pertaining power supply, the need for development of Arnia town and its vicinity by the Public Works Department and pending payments related to agricultural matters. A particularly significant issue raised was the

delivery of irrigation water supply to the tail ends of canals. In response to these concerns, the DC directed the officers of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to implement immediate remedial measures to ensure proper irrigation water supply. Similarly, the PWD was instructed to prioritise the local development requirements. The grievances of farmers were duly noted, and concerned officers were tasked with taking the necessary actions.

Highlighting government initiatives, the DC encouraged the locals to take advantage of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM) scheme which provides farmers with solar-powered pumps and grid-connected solar power plants, promoting the use of renewable energy and enhancing their income.

The Block Divas concluded with an assurance from DC Sachin Kumar Vaishya that all grievances will be addressed systematically, reiterating the administration's commitment to the welfare of the people.

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Div Com reviews safety measures; functioning of Private Tuition, Coaching Centres

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Wednesday chaired a meeting to assess the safety and proper functioning of Private Tuition/Coaching Centres operating in Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Deputy Commissioner of Jammu Division, Vice Chairman Jammu Development Authority, Director School Education, Joint Director, Fire and Emergency Services and other concerned.

At the Outset of the meeting, the Div Com sought the details of all the coaching centres and private tuition institutes operating in all the districts of Jammu from the concerned District Administrations.

The Div Com constituted a committee in every district headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner of the respective districts who will submit a detailed report on the functioning and safety of Private Tuition/Coaching Centres in seven days.

The members of the Committee were directed to visit and inspect all such coaching centres operating in their districts.

The committee will assess the coaching centres on adequate safety features, adherence to building regulations and norms, fire systems, space, CCTV and emergency exits besides other important parameters.

The Div Com said that safety and security of all the students who come for studies and taking tuitions in the coaching centres is paramount.

Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu Zone Jammu was present during the send-off ceremony of Traffic Officer and wished him a healthy and blissful post-retirement life.

Sub Inspector Ram Paul thanked all ranks of police for their love and cooperation in his service career. He said that he was proud to be a member of J&K Traffic Police.

