

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Admin orders officials...

participate in commemorating such an important turning point in the nation's history, the general administration department said in an order.

"... all officers or officials in the Union Territory stationed in Srinagar/Jammu are enjoined upon to attend the main function of the Independence Day celebrations, 2024, at the Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar or Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu, as part of their official duty," the order stated.

Any absence shall be only permissible with prior permission of their immediate superior; it added.

The department "advised" all administrative secretaries, heads of departments, managing directors or chief executives of public sector undertakings to ensure that all officers or officials working under their administrative control and stationed in Srinagar and Jammu attend the functions.

### BSF DG, special...

Agrawal and his deputy Special DG (West) Y B Khurania were sent back to their respective state cadres with immediate effect, according to a government order.

The repatriation orders for the two Indian Police Service (IPS) officers come in the backdrop of a spate of terror incidents in the Jammu region, along the India-Pakistan border.

At least 22 people, including 11 security personnel and a village defence guard (VDG) member, have been killed this year in such incidents in Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua and Doda districts.

The BSF, which is entrusted to guard this front, has denied any instances of infiltration.

Five terrorists were also killed in two encounters in Kathua and Doda districts last month.

Separate orders issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) conveyed they were being "prematurely" repatriated with "immediate effect."

Agrawal is a 1989-batch Kerala cadre IPS officer, while Khurania belongs to the 1990-batch of the Odisha cadre.

Khurania is expected to be made the head of the police force or the director general of police (DGP) in Odisha where the new BJP government has just taken charge. Agrawal had taken charge as the Border Security Force chief in June last year and he was scheduled to retire in July, 2026.

Khurania, as the special DG (West), was heading the formation of the force along the Pakistan border that runs for about 2,289 kms along Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat in India's western flank.

Interspersed with dense forests and mountainous terrain, the Jammu region accounts for 485 kms of this border.

The about 2.65-lakh personnel strong BSF guards Indian borders with Pakistan in the west and Bangladesh in the east.

In a separate order, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet also appointed 1989-batch Odisha cadre IPS officer Amrit Mohan Prasad as a SDG in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

### J&K HC summons...

attach Singh's salary due to non-compliance with an October 2022 judgment.

According to the Sub-Judge, the Deputy Commissioner allegedly misused his position to harass him, including unauthorised visits to his property by government officials. This was perceived as an attempt to undermine judicial authority and retaliate against the court's decision. In ordering the criminal contempt proceedings last month, Qureshi also recommended that the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary take administrative action against Singh under the Government Conduct Rules, 1971, describing him as a "constant potential threat" to the judiciary. In its order, the bench said any attempt by Singh to avoid service of summons or his non-appearance shall be viewed seriously and the court shall resort to coercive proceedings to secure his presence.

### CS reviews evolving...

each of them. Earlier the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh presented a detailed account of the industrial ecosystem developed here over past few years. He gave out the progress made on investment front, NCSS, land allotments and raising of industrial infrastructure across the UT.

He delineated that an investment of more than Rs 8050 Cr has been realised since 2021. He also gave out that around 889 units promising employment to 46,857 people with an investment proposal of Rs 18,185 Cr have started ground work till the end of previous financial year.

He also revealed that first time over multiple Rs 500 crore above investment units were setup in J&K under new industrial policy across different sectors. He revealed that UT is the first to achieve 97% reform implementation approved by DPIIT, GoI for BRAP 2022.

Moreover 185 services had been made online through single window portal with onboarding of more than 18 departments on single window portal. It was added that 46 new industrial estates currently under development through different executing agencies has a feasible land of 18,888 kanals.

The meeting was further apprised that out of 1496 applications received under NCSS 916 stands approved by the concerned authorities. It was disclosed that out of the approved outlay of Rs 1050 Cr; incentives to the tune of Rs 210 Cr had been disbursed by JKDFC.

Regarding the newly launched 'J&K Startup Policy' it was said that so far 31 startups had applied for seed funding. It was given out that JKEDI is facilitating the start-ups in availing benefits of Loan Guarantee Program from member institute banks as per DPIIT guidelines. Further, the institute has on boarded mentors from various organizations to foster innovation and women entrepreneurship.

In addition two patent cells had been established at JKEDI campus Pampore and Bari Brahma to cater the request in this regard from the startups. It has also initiated accepting registrations for co-working spaces at its incubation Labs, after designating a space for 34 startups at Bari Brahmana campus and for 24 startups at its Pampore campus.

About HAUSLA 2.0, the meeting was informed that the program has been envisaged to promote women entrepreneurship across the UT. It aims at building necessary business skills, enhance market reach & facilitate access to finance/Gov incentive for women entrepreneurs. It was further disclosed that 511 women out of 915 applicants had been shortlisted by JKTPO/ JKEDI after conducting selection process at district level. The tentative program for training them at district level in different sectors has been fixed for August to October this year; as reported in this meeting.

### Police on lookout...

blast at the bus stand. Bhat, an operative of the Hizbul Mujahideen, was tasked by the District Commander of Hizbul Mujahideen in Kulgam, Farooq Ahmed Bhat alias Omar for throwing the grenade, police officer said. Bhat went missing after being released on bail.

"We appeal to the public to provide any information about him so that he can be rearrested," the officer added. The police suspect that he may have joined terrorist ranks in Kashmir.

### Field expedition reveals...

by Prof. Pervez Ahmed, Head Department of Geography & Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, who is the member of Focused Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Monitoring Committee (FGMC) constituted by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir recently to focus on mitigation measures due to overflow of glacial lakes. The FGMC is headed by Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti.

A detailed presentation was given to FGMC after the field expedition highlighting the major findings and future possibilities. Subsequently, a comprehensive preliminary report was submitted to the Chairman, FGMC for deliberations and future course of action.

In the next phase, DMRR&R has planned to install Early Warning Systems for generating real-time alerts at most of at-risk glacial lakes in UT of J&K in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority and a technical partner.

The Himalayan glaciers have been rapidly melting due to accelerated climate change, with significant warning observed in the 21st century. This trend has led to the formation and expansion of glacial lakes, which are increasingly prone to catastrophic outburst floods. The projections indicate that up to 65% of the ice mass in High Mountain Asia could disappear by the end of the century, exacerbating the risks of GLOFs.

This expedition underscores the urgent need for enhanced monitoring and risk management strategies to address the growing threat of GLOFs in the Himalayas. Efforts to expand the mitigation programme are being expedited. Further, this region is known for highly localised heavy rainfall events. Therefore, efforts to improve the predictive ability for such events will also be

intensified in collaboration with relevant agencies.

### Over 1,200 pilgrims...

far paying obeisance at the naturally-formed ice lingam at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine, the officials said.

The 36th batch of 1,221 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 3.28 am in a convoy of 54 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police, they said. While 826 pilgrims will reach Pahalgam to undertake the annual pilgrimage through the traditional 48-km route in Anantnag district, 395 have opted for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The 52-day-long yatra commenced on June 29 and is scheduled to conclude on August 19.

### 2 children dead...

were admitted to the hospital, with two in critical condition being referred to the GMC hospital in Jammu.

"Unfortunately, two children were pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital," Dr Sharma said.

More children displaying similar symptoms are being shifted to hospitals in Jammu, while others are receiving treatment at the Udhampur district Hospital.

### BSF Special DG...

situation was thoroughly reviewed.

The meeting focused on the security situation in the Jammu region.

During his visit, Khurania interacted with the javans and praised them for their dedication and professionalism in performing their duties.

### Group Captain Shubhanshu...

will be beneficial for the Indian Human Space Programme and it will also strengthen human space flight cooperation between ISRO and NASA," the Indian space agency said.

India and the US are collaborating to send an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station in 2024, American President Joe Biden said after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington last year.

### Cannot direct re...

actions of some unscrupulous candidates. It is also important for the response to malpractice to be proportionate. Ordering a re-test would disrupt the academic schedule for the year," it said.

The CJI, in the 63-page detailed order, was also critical of the conduct of the NTA.

The order said while the various issues the court dealt with do not lead to the conclusion that the integrity of the NEET was vitiated at a systemic level, "the manner in which NTA has organised the exam this year gives rise to serious concerns."

It said a body such as the NTA, which is entrusted with the immense responsibility of conducting highly important competitive exams, cannot afford a misstep, take an incorrect decision, and amend it at a later stage.

"All decisions must be well-considered, with due regard to the importance of the decision. Flipflops are an anathema to fairness," the bench said.

The bench said it is cognizant of the fact that national-level exams with participation of tens of lakhs of students require immense resources, coordination, and planning.

"But that is precisely the reason for the existence of a body such as NTA. It is no excuse to say that the exam is conducted in myriad centres or that a large number of aspirants appear for the exam. NTA has sufficient resources at its disposal. It has adequate funding, time, and opportunities to organise exams such as the NEET without lapses of the kind that occurred this year," it said.

The bench flagged multiple lapses on the part of the NTA, including security breach at an examination centre in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand, where the rear door of the strongroom was opened and unauthorised people were permitted to access the question papers, transport of question papers by e-rickshaws and wrong distribution of question papers among candidates.

It said when the results were declared, 67 aspirants had clinched a perfect score of 720/720. After the removal of compensatory marks awarded to them and the conduct of a re-test for 1563 candidates, the number of aspirants who had obtained full marks dropped to 61, and later to 17 following the recomputation of marks due to revision of the answer key, it said.

"The intervention of the Court, reports by the media, and representations by candidates ensured that these changes were made in the interests of fairness and justice. However, the system adopted by NTA should be such that just outcomes are reached even when these external catalysts are not present. The system must be such as to inspire public confidence," the order said.

The top court directed the NTA to ensure that all concerns highlighted by the court in its judgment are addressed and requested the seven-member committee headed by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan to keep these issues in mind while making its recommendations.

Over 23 lakh students took the NEET-UG 2024 held on May 5 for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses.

### States asked to...

It is important for stakeholders, including the urban development ministry, states, municipal corporations and local self-government bodies, to cooperate and work in tandem to prevent and manage dengue cases in the country, he said in the statement.

Chandra made the remarks while chairing a high-level inter-ministerial meeting (conducted in hybrid mode) to review the dengue situation in nine high-burden states and assess the preparedness of the public health system for the prevention, containment and management of dengue, given the onset of the monsoon season.

The official highlighted the need for preemptive steps and public health measures ahead of the monsoon season when dengue cases typically peak around August, September, October, and November. He emphasised that cases have been increasing over the past four years, the statement said.

Although dengue cases generally peak in October, this year's trend shows that as of July 31, the number of cases is already almost 50 per cent higher than the corresponding time last year, the statement said.

The health secretary urged the states to ensure that they are prepared for the upcoming peak.

While the number of cases has been rising over the past four years, the Dengue Case Fatality Rate has decreased from 3.3 per cent in 1996 to 0.17 per cent in 2023 due to focused, timely and collaborative efforts, he stated. Chandra also advised the states to be prepared with effective hospital management of dengue patients. "We need to ensure the availability of platelets and hospital resources in the health departments to bring down the fatality rate," he added.

The official also assured of all support to the states in combatting dengue and encouraged them to submit their proposals to the ministry.

To enhance prevention and control efforts, the Union health secretary called for increased collaboration between the health ministry and the housing and urban affairs ministry by developing a joint action plan.

He also highlighted the need for support from the urban development ministry in the form of cleanliness drives, particularly during the peak period of dengue cases, which spans from the onset of the monsoon season to November, the statement said. The meeting, held on Friday, was participated by the housing and urban affairs ministry as well as secretaries and high-level officials from nine states -- Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Eighteen municipal corporations, including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai, virtually attended the meeting. The highest number of dengue cases so far have been reported from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra. S P Singh, additional secretary of the urban affairs ministry, enlisted various steps taken to prevent and control the spread of dengue.

He mentioned the 'Safai Apnao, Beemari Bhagao Campaign' and the Swachh Bharat portal. These initiatives focus on monitoring activities related to the elimination of stagnant water and preventing waterlogging, Singh stated.

### Ashok posted as SSP Security J&K, Altaf relieved

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday posted Ashok Kumar Sharma, Commandant IRP-24th Bn as new SSP Security J&K and relieved Altaf Ahmad Shah, from his duties in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

"In pursuance of the approval of Competent Authority to the transfer of Altaf Ahmad Shah, IPS (AGMUT: 2013), SSP Security, J&K to the Union Territory of Ladakh, the officer is relieved from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir; to enable him to join in the Union Territory of Ladakh," reads an order issued by Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department, J&K.

## Controller Legal Metrology seals 2 petrol pumps for short delivery

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A team of the Legal Metrology Department headed by Controller Majid Drabu, on Friday sealed two petrol pumps on Srinagar Leh National Highway near Kangan area of Ganderbal which were found operating in contravention of Law.

In one of the cases, it was found that all the nozzles of a petrol pump were delivering Petrol and Diesel in lesser quantity by about 30 ml against every 5 Litres. The quantity as shown on the display unit of Dispensing machines was not matching the actual delivery which was given to consumers.

In another similar case, another Petrol Pump was found delivering fuel to consumers in lesser quantity by about 150 ml per 5 Litres which resulted in its seizure in terms of Section 15 of Legal Metrology Act 2009.

At present, two such Petrol Pumps are under seizure and further action as warranted under law will be initiated against them.

The entire inspection and the subsequent seizure was conducted in presence of the Consumers who not only lauded the action of the department but requested for further inspections of other Petrol Pumps as well so that the consumers are saved from any cheating.

The consumers were informed that in case of any doubt with respect to the delivery of fuel by any Petrol Pump, they can check the quantity on their own by using the certified 5 Litre measure which is available with every Petrol Pump and in case a Petrol Pump refuse to do that, a complaint can be lodged with the Legal Metrology Department.

## H&H Deptt acts against fraudulent handicrafts dealer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Department of Handicraft and Handloom Kashmir acted in response to a complaint from a tourist who reported for being sold a machine-made carpet falsely advertised as handmade at an exorbitant price of Rs 2, 27,000. The payment was made directly to the shop-keeper via electronic transfer.

Upon receiving the complaint, the Department immediately ceased operations of the shop involved, Craft India, located at Reram Kunzar. The shop is owned by Mursaleen Ahmad Yatoo, Son of Ghulam Rasool Yatoo, resident of S.D Colony, Sanat Nagar. Additionally, the shop has been blacklisted by the Department for its fraudulent practices.

Further investigation revealed that the shop had failed to issue a proper GST bill to the customer. Consequently, the matter has also been referred to the Sales Tax Department for further action.

The Department has seized the consignment from the shop and is currently exploring the possibility of a nexus between shopkeeper and taxi driver involved in such deceptive activities.

This action follows a recent meeting held with prominent dealers and showroom owners from the Srinagar-Narbal-Tangmarg-Gulmarg tourist corridor on 9th July, 2024.

During this meeting, stakeholders were strongly urged to avoid malpractices and the misbranding of handmade products. Specifically, a warning was issued against selling and marketing machine-made merchandise under the guise of handmade goods.

Department reiterates its commitment to upholding the integrity of Kashmir's handicrafts and handloom sector.

All stakeholders are advised to strictly adhere to the rules governing the sector. Any deviations or malpractices will be met with stringent actions to protect the interests of genuine artisans and preserve the authenticity of Kashmir's rich heritage.

## Hit and run case solved, accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday solved a hit & run case by arresting the accused person.

As per details, On August 1, 2024, an FIR No- 83/2024 U/S 281/125(a)/106 BNS was lodged at PS Pacea Danga in which two persons were on motorcycle while coming from Nagrota towards City side when reached near Manda Zoo an unknown vehicle hit them from backside resulting the pillion rider namely Parvinder Kumar S/o Kali Dass R/o Bann Batehra Jammu motorcycle died on spot while the m/cycle rider got injuries.

The unknown offender along with vehicle after the accident fled away from the spot.

A special team have been constituted led by SHO PS Pacea Danga under the close supervision of SDPO City North Jammu and guidance of SP city North through the analysis of CCTV footage and other evidence the unknown vehicle was traced out as a Bus bearing regd no. JK02AE6053 which was seized in the case and further accused driver namely Rakesh Singh S/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Chulna Udhampur was also arrested. Further investigation of this case under progress.



## ADC Kathua imposes Rs. 5,76,000 penalty on defaulters under FSSAI Act 2006

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In a determined effort to uphold food safety standards and protect public health, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Ranjit Singh imposed a total of Rs. 5,76,000 in penalties on various business establishments across the district.

These penalties were enforced under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) 2006 against businesses found guilty of dealing in substandard and misbranded items, as well as for failing to maintain hygienic conditions.

The businesses penalized include manufacturers, distributors, and retailers from Kathua, Billawar, Basohli, Bani and Hiranagar. They were identified through rigorous inspections and assessments conducted by the district's food safety department.

On the enforcement action of the Kathua administration, the ADC said that safeguarding public health and ensuring that all food products available to consumers meet the highest safety and quality standards is the ultimate aim to keep these commercial establishments in check. He emphasized the critical importance of compliance with food safety regulations, stating that the penalties serve as a stern reminder that non-compliance will not be tolerated.

## SSP Reasi holds Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre meeting



SSP Mohita Sharma chairing a meeting at Reasi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In view of the current security situation and upcoming events such as the Kousar Naag Yatra, Shri Budda Amarnath Yatra, SDPO Mahore, SDPO Arnas, SDPO Bhawan, Dy.SP Ops. Reasi, Dy.SP Ops Sarh, GSO 14 sector RR.

The meeting commenced with SSP Reasi welcoming all officers and outlining the agenda. A comprehensive discussion was held on various issues, including the present security scenario, preparations for Independence Day 2024, Shri Budda Amarnath Yatra, and Kousar Naag Yatra. The meeting also focused on law and order, militant activities, surveil-

lance on Over Ground Workers (OGWs), the status of surrendered militants, missing youths, their potential presence in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), and measures to prevent the radicalization of youth.

A brainstorming session allowed all officers to present their insights and information-based viewpoints. SSP Reasi emphasized the importance of timely sharing of actionable information among all agencies to monitor and counter any anti-national or anti-social activities within the district.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of commitment to better coordination and cooperation among all participating agencies.