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J&K Govt dismisses...

money generated through the illegal trade of these drugs was being used for fueling unrest as well as financing the terrorism activities in the Kashmir Valley and other parts of the Country. They were in contact with large number of drug peddlers and Over Ground Workers of proscribed terrorist organization and was a part of modus operandi for arranging funding for terrorism in Kashmir valley and other parts of the Country.

Ishad Ahmad Chalkoo, Selection grade Constable in J&K Police, son of Saifu-Din Chalkoo, resident of Silkote Uri, District Baramulla had developed close relationship with the terrorist associates of the area and started working as an Over Ground Worker with the proscribed terrorist organization, Laskhar-e-Taiba. He was in close contact with various Kashmiri origin terrorists based in PoJK, through encrypted messaging applications and had received Arms/ammunitions for further delivery to the terrorists. Being the resident of Uri, District Baramulla, he utilized his knowledge of the local terrain to establish contacts with terrorist based in PoJK. He used to assist terrorist groups, during infiltration, by providing logistics and transportation of their illegal arms and ammunition in the interior areas of Kashmir Valley.

Nazam Din, Teacher in the Education Department, son of Qayam Din, resident of Kirni Haveli, District Poonch is a highly motivated and committed drug peddler and an Over Ground Worker of terrorists of Hizbul Mujahidin outfit. He had received consignments of narcotics from across the LoC for onward delivery to the drug peddlers even in Punjab. He was in constant touch with hard core terrorists in Pakistan, who ex-filtrated for terrorist training and are currently active in terrorist activities from PoJK. He smuggled drugs from Pakistan and money generated through illegal trade of these drugs, it was used for fueling unrest as well as financing the terrorism activities in the Kashmir valley, as well as other parts of the Country, being an important source in the narco terror system.

The Government has adopted a Zero tolerance policy towards the anti-national elements who have been taking advantage of being in the Government service, an official spokesperson said.

Fresh batch of...

of the 52-day-long yatra from the twin base camps of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on June 29.

More than 4.85 lakh pilgrims have so far visited the cave shrine situated at the height of 3,880 metre, housing an ice-shivling. The natural formation, which has now melted completely, is the main reason behind the declining number of pilgrims over the past week.

Officials said that around 5,000 pilgrims are still visiting the cave on a daily basis to offer their prayers. The pilgrimage will enter its final phase on August 14 when the 'Charri Mubarak', the holy mace of Lord Shiva, will join the yatra in Pahalgam.

Officials said the 37th batch, comprising a total of 991 pilgrims, who also included 41 sadhus and nine sadhvis, left Bhagwati nagar base camp for the valley amid tight security arrangements around 3.30 am.

While 815 pilgrims are heading for the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route, 176 yatrins have opted for the 14-km Baltal track, the officials said.

12 injured after...

they said. They have been hospitalised and a magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the incident that took place around 3:30 am at Kabaddi Nallah, the officials said. The condition of the injured is stated to be stable.

People from nearby houses were moved to safer places following the cave-in, they said. The officials said a rescue operation was launched immediately after receiving information about the building collapse. Police and army personnel and local volunteers were involved in the operation.

Most of those injured were tenants, they said and added that it took rescuers around three hours to remove debris and pull out the earthmover's driver from inside the heavily damaged cabin of the machine.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, Mohd Jaffer Akhoun and Kargil Deputy Commissioner, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse supervised the rescue operation.

"We have taken the incident seriously and a magisterial inquiry has been ordered to probe the incident. Those found guilty will be punished," Suse told reporters.

He said the administration has decided to form a committee to inspect structures in "vulnerable areas" of the district. "The committee will also check for any violation in building regulation laws and identify the guilty," the official said.

India food surplus...

to global welfare as a 'Vishwa Bandhu'. He highlighted various mantras put forward by India on various fora, including 'One Earth, One Family and One Future', 'Mission LiFE' and 'One Earth One Health'.

He underlined India's approach of not viewing the health of humans, plants and animals in silos.

"Challenges before sustainable agriculture and food systems can only be tackled under the holistic approach of One Earth, One Family and One Future," he said.

Modi emphasised the importance of the agriculture sector in the Indian economy and highlighted the work done by his government in the last 10 years for the growth of the farm sector in a sustainable manner.

"Agriculture is at the centre of India's economic policies," he said.

In Indian agriculture, 90 per cent of farmers own very little land, and these small farmers are the biggest strength of India's food security, Modi said.

He pointed out that a similar situation is prevalent in several developing countries in Asia, making India's model applicable.

The Prime Minister also said India has provided 1,900 new climate-resilient varieties of crops in the last 10 years.

India is promoting chemical-free natural farming, he added.

He also said the country is moving towards achieving the 20 per cent ethanol blending target in petrol.

The conference will highlight India's proactive approach to global agricultural challenges and showcase the nation's advancements in agricultural research and policy.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the seriousness of the nutrition challenge, along with water scarcity and climate change. He presented Shri Anna, Millet, as a solution given the superfood's quality of minimum water and maximum production.

Modi expressed India's willingness to share India's millet basket with the world.

In his speech, he also talked about how India is leveraging digital technology in the agriculture sector. He also mentioned the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, where money is transferred to the bank accounts of 10 crore farmers with a single click, and a digital public infrastructure for digital crop survey that provides real-time information to farmers and enables them to make data-driven decisions.

He emphasised that crores of farmers will benefit from the initiative and improve their economic condition.

Modi also spoke about a huge campaign for the digitisation of land, where farmers will be given a digital identification number for their land and the promotion of drones in farming, where 'drone didis' are trained to operate them.

These steps will not only benefit the farmers of India but also strengthen global food security, he added.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Member of NITI Aayog Ramesh Chand, Conference President Matin Qaim and Secretary of DARE and DG, ICA Himanshu Pathak were also present on the occasion. The conference will provide a platform for young researchers and leading professionals to present their work and network with global peers.

It aims to strengthen partnerships between research institutes and universities, influence policymaking on both national and global scales, and showcase India's agricultural progress, including advancements in digital agriculture and sustainable agri-food systems.

The triennial conference, organised by the International Association of Agricultural Economists, is being held from August 2-7.

The theme for this year's conference is "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems."

People get so...

the Supreme Court of India, he said.

"Since I took over as the CJ, we have made efforts to bring officers from all over the country in the Registry. They bring great amount of inclusion and diversity," he said.

The CJ said the special Lok Adalat began with seven benches initially as "we were sceptical if it would be successful". "By Thursday we had 13 benches and there was so much work," he said.

"Purpose of Lok Adalat has been to take justice to the homes of people and ensure people that we are constant presence in their lives," Chandrachud said.

The week-long special Lok Adalat, celebrating 75 years of the Supreme Court, began with the aim to "facilitate amicable settlements of suitable pending cases", in matters that have "elements of settlement".

The top court held the special Lok Adalat till August 3 in an effort to reduce the pendency of cases.

Justice Tashi Rabstan...

who is also Chairman, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh

in the august presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan; Justice Sindhu Sharma; Justice Javed Iqbal Wani; Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary and Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani. The other Judges of High Court of J&K and Ladakh graced the occasion virtually.

The Consultation meet was organized by the Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under the aegis of Child Welfare Committee, Supreme Court of India in association with UNICEF, and Agri Industries Vikas Chamber and Social Welfare Department, UT of J&K as well as Social and Tribal Affairs Department, UT of Ladakh.

This significant event brought together a distinguished assembly of heads of various departments, Principal Magistrates JJBs, Medical Officers, Academicians, Police Officers, social activists, and other experts from the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to deliberate on the policies, challenges and pathways to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

The Chief Justice (A) in his inaugural address discussed the critical issues faced by children with disabilities and the efforts needed to provide them with equal opportunities and status. He shared insights on the welfare schemes and the gaps in their implementation, urging all stakeholders to work collaboratively for the betterment of these children.

Justice Rabstan also acknowledged the crucial role of NGOs and social organizations in uplifting the lives of children with disabilities. He called for tapping and channelizing resources from these organizations to organize awareness programs and reach out to the beneficiaries effectively.

He also emphasized on the importance of collective effort in creating an inclusive society where every child, regardless of their abilities, has the opportunity to thrive. He called upon all stakeholders to work together to ensure that children with disabilities are given the respect, care and opportunities they deserve.

Justice Atul Sreedharan, in his address shared the data of children with disabilities to impress upon that the States having good Health Care and educational facilities were having low ratio of children with disabilities.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, in her keynote address emphasized the importance of safeguarding and empowering children with disabilities. She highlighted the challenges these children face, such as social stigma, discrimination, and limited access to education and healthcare.

Justice Sharma called for collaborative efforts among stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of laws, inclusive education, comprehensive healthcare, and social inclusion. She urged society to work together to create an environment where every child can reach their full potential.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani while delivering his special address, focused on the legislative frameworks that safeguard the rights of children with disabilities, including the Juvenile Justice Act, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, and other pertinent child protection laws.

Justice Wani highlighted the necessity for stringent enforcement of these laws and the crucial role of judicial oversight in ensuring that the rights of children with disabilities are upheld.

In his welcome address, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee gave an overview of the programme and said that this UT level Consultation is being organized by the JJ Committee with a purpose to discuss comprehensive approaches to uphold and promote the rights and well-being of children with disabilities. The gathering aimed to foster collaboration, share insights, and develop an action plan for the future, ensuring better protection and support for children with disabilities.

The consultation unfolded across a series of meticulously curated technical sessions that illuminated the multifaceted aspects of protection of children with disabilities. The first technical session was chaired by Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M. K. Sharma, focusing on the topic 'Overview of Schemes, Services and Provisions for Children with Disability in the Dept. Of Women & Child Development, Social Justice & PRD'.

The Resource persons Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare UT of J&K and Padma Angmo, Commissioner Secretary, Social and Tribal Affairs Department, UT of Ladakh underlined various Govt Welfare Schemes which can be utilized by the Persons with Disability.

Sheetal Nanda further highlighted some of the institutional initiatives that would safeguard children with special abilities.

The second part of the first session delved upon the Education & Health perspectives of the Schemes and Services for children with disabilities.

The second and third technical Sessions were chaired by Rajinder Sapru, Registrar Rules and M. Iqbal Lone, Commissioner, Disabilities respectively wherein focus was laid on the topics "Juvenile Justice and Children with Disabilities synchronization with focus on identification semantics hard and soft skills and infrastructure" and "Way Forward with challenges and opportunities on children with Disability and Child Protection (Focusing on Children in conflict with Law, Children in need of Care and Protection, Skilling/ Workforce strengthening)".

The Resource persons were Bharti Ali, Child Rights & Juvenile Justice Expert and Renu Anuj Singh, Director, Rural Services, Action for ability development and inclusion.

The last technical session which was chaired by Y. P. Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy focused on the Police perspective in implementation of schemes and rehabilitation services. Owais Wani, DYSP, JKPS, SDPO Charar-i-Sharief was the resource person for the session.

The inaugural session was physically attended by Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Achal Sethi, Law Secretary; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Yash Paul Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy; M.K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice; Jawad Ahmed, PDJ Srinagar; other Registry Officers and Officers from Civil and Police Administration besides virtual attendance by Padma Angmo, Commissioner Secretary, Social and Tribal Welfare Department, UT of Ladakh, Spalzes Angmo, Member Secretary, Ladakh Legal Services Authority.

The participants in the consultation were Secretaries DL&A, Principal Magistrates JJBs, Officers from Health, Education and Police Departments, Members of JJBs, Chairperson and Members CWC's, Superintendent Observation Homes, District Social Welfare Officers, Counsellors, Representatives of UNICEF, Heads of Law department of various Universities and PLVs.

On the occasion, the Concluding remarks were presented by Hilal Bhat, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, J&K and the vote of thanks was proposed by Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DL&A Ganderbal. The proceedings were conducted by Jahangir Bakshi, Secretary, DL&A Srinagar.

PM implemented Ambedkar's...

negative forces including those of the cross border would be defeated decisively to help people of J&K grow and prosper in the Modi era.

Chugh also asked the SC Moreha leaders to aware the people of the grave injustices that Congress, NC, and PDP did their communities for 70 years.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Maanyal, speaking on the occasion, summarized the historic decisions that benefitted the SC communities, particularly after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 (A). He said that the earlier ruling governments of Congress, NC, and PDP befooled the communities like displaced, refugees, Valmikis, Gorkhas, women etc of Jammu & Kashmir and the SC community was one of the major sufferers of those black deeds by those governments.

Sanjay Nirmla, asked the Moreha activists to work extra hours till the next elections. He also threw light on forthcoming Moreha programmes, and asked the Moreha leaders to organize them within the community.

Neelam Langeh enumerated the various organizational and development activities undertaken by the Moreha leaders. He assured the senior leadership of party that the SC community of Jammu and Kashmir will vote enmass in favour of the B-JP in upcoming Assembly elections.

Focus on 'Har Ghar'...

Chief Secretary besides taking note of the progress made on completion of schemes impressed upon the concerned officers to simultaneously take steps for 'Har Ghar Nal se Jal' certification of villages by the community.

The Chief Secretary also advised for proper documentation of the inspections done by consultants with regard to source sustainability and technical feasibility to ensure that relevant reports are available for everyone interested to go through the same.

He maintained that since most of the schemes are going to be completed soon it is advisable for the Department to work out a reasonable O&M Plan for looking after these valuable assets and running these schemes smoothly for public.

Moreover Dulloo encouraged the Department to look out for possible IoT based solution to have access to data like quality, quantity and timing of water supplied to public. He emphasised that this data would help in better monitoring of these schemes along with providing



CS Atul Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

fair idea about the need of resources and manpower to operate each of them.

The ACS, Jal Shakti Department, Shaheen Kabra while throwing light on different aspects of the Mission highlighted that the Department had devised a scheme completion plan to achieve the objectives in a time-bound manner.

He gave out that this plan envisages completion of 229 schemes in first quarter of this financial year; 1111 and 1318 in next two quarters to meet the target. He added that currently 894 schemes had achieved the progress of 76%-99%, 922 (51%-75%), which demonstrates the commitment of the department to complete the Mission on time.

It was pinpointed in the meeting that the Department is carrying out third-party studies about the technical feasibility/source sustainability of schemes in order to double check these parameters.

It was revealed that till date 553 reports had been received from these consultants/PMs, out of which 512 had been analysed to gauge the specific issues faced in each case. It was added that out of 58 source sustainability issues found in these studies, 55 are related to ground water and 3 related to surface sources.

The meeting also discussed the status of electromechanical works carried out so far and the equipment installed or pending in each Jal Shakti Division. It also took notice of the establishment of electric substations, procurement of GI/DI/HDPE pipes for the mission.

It was divulged during this meeting that till date 1007 villages had been reported by the field functionaries to be 'Har Ghar Jal Villages' out of which 471 have been certified too by the locals there.

Later in another meeting called to review the schemes implemented by the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department, the Chief Secretary took appraisal of works being executed for facilitating irrigation or protection against floods.

He stressed on spending funds received under the scheme 'Har Khetko Pani' and those received under NABARD. He asked for ensuring completion of works executed by the Department to receive the waters from Shahpur Kandidam.

Dulloo also enquired about the commissioning of Tawi Barrage after its completion by the executing agencies. He called for making strenuous efforts for its early pondageso that it adds to the beauty of Jammu city.

My mission is...

works, which have further intensified the demand for timely elections and effective governance. He reaffirmed his commitment to honesty and transparency, saying that he will never mislead or lie to the people.

He said that his mission is centered on promoting development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "Lok Sabha elections were based on a national narrative, where people fell victim to false propaganda and exploitation but received nothing in return. In the assembly elections, local issues must be the focus. The development we initiated must continue. People are innocent, and the parties only engage in politics based on religion and caste, which ultimately harms the public. Our focus should be on development, peace, and the return of our rights- Job and land, including statehood."

Meanwhile, leaders and workers, who led the delegations, urged Azad to take a strong stand against the parties that exploit innocent people and spread false allegations.

They emphasised the need to abandon a purely secular ideology and to work inclusively for the benefit of all communities.

The leaders also suggested holding of conventions and public meetings to connect with the people, raise their concerns, and address the pressing issues they face.

They expressed their readiness for the upcoming assembly elections with the aim of forming the next government.

Azad expressed his deep appreciation for the leaders and workers who put in tremendous effort during the Lok Sabha elections, despite the challenges posed by a new party and symbol.

He acknowledged their hard work and dedication, saying that learning from past mistakes, every effort will be made to ensure better performance in the upcoming assembly elections.

Azad urged the cadre to continue their efforts with renewed vigor, aiming at registering a big victory in the next electoral battle.

SSB DG Chawdhary...

similar premature and immediate repatriation of Agrawal's Deputy and Special DG (west), Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, to his parent cadre of Odisha.

The government's decision to remove the two top BSF officers comes against the backdrop of the Jammu region, along the India-Pakistan international border, witnessing a spate of terror attacks leading to martyrdom of number of army and security personnel as well as civilians.

The BSF is responsible for guarding the India-Pakistan front on India's west side and Bangladesh on the east.

KPS highlights demands amid J&K Election preparations



Sabha Members during the meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing renewed political activity with the Election Commission of India preparing for upcoming Assembly elections.

This development has sparked a resurgence in political statements and debates, particularly concerning the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community.

The KP community continues to hope for their inclusion in political manifestos, specifically demanding a safe and honorable return to the Valley.

However, there are concerns that efforts are being made to undermine these demands. This situation has left the KP community feeling unsupported.

During a brainstorming session on Saturday, the executive committee of the Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS), chaired by President K.K Khosa, struggled to gauge the Union Government's stance on KP issues.

There is a pressing need for the Union and UT governments to collaboratively prevent any disruptions to the peace and harmony that have been restored in the region, Khosa said adding that incidents such as house burnings in the Valley and attempts to spread terrorism in the Jammu region require urgent attention.

"The Union Government faces a complex challenge, balancing the conduct of free and fair elections, restoring statehood to J&K, and managing border security. Despite these challenges, the government's robust policies are expected to address these issues effectively," Khosa said.

The meeting participants recommended that representatives from all KP organizations draft a unified charter of demands for submission to political parties, urging their inclusion in election manifestos.

They also called for increased relief payments to Rs. 7,000 per person, prompt handling of ration and medical reimbursement issues, and the resolution of ration card bifurcation problems.

The meeting expressed gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir High Court for its order protecting KP places of worship in the Valley.

Attendees included Ashwani Koul (Vice-President), S.L. Bagati (General Secretary), G.J. Kampassi (Secretary), Subash Dhar, Prof. R. K. Ganjoo, Dr. Usha Tiekoo, Asha Kichloo, V. K. Mukhi, Vinod Bhat, and Bharat Bushan Gosain.

Absconder evading arrest for 16 years arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a breakthrough, Jammu Police have arrested Mohd Akram S/o. Ghulam Rubani from Morh Udhampur, who had been evading arrest for the past 16 years. Akram was involved in case FIR No. 112/2008 under Section 379 IPC.

The relentless efforts of the police led to Akram's capture and the execution of a warrant under Section 512.

He was produced before the Special Exeise Court in Jammu today, marking a significant achievement in the enforcement of justice.

This arrest underscores Jammu Police's commitment to ensuring that no criminal can evade the law indefinitely, providing relief and reassurance to the community.

