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NDA will form...

minister said. "They (opposition) feel that with some success, they have won elections. They do not know that the BJP won more seats in this election (2024 Lok Sabha poll) than the number of seats the Congress got in the past three elections... The BJP alone has more seats than the total number of seats which their whole alliance has," he said.

Attacking the INDIA bloc parties, Shah said they want to create uncertainty as they keep saying that this government will not complete its term.

"I want to assure the opposition that not only will this government complete its five-year term, the next term will also be of this government. Be ready to sit in the opposition and learn to work effectively in the opposition," he added.

About the water supply project, Shah said over one lakh people in Manimajra area will get round-the-clock water supply.

He said a sum of Rs 75 crore has been spent on this project.

The Union minister said when Modi became the PM in 2014, he tried to uplift the standard of people's living in cities by implementing the Smart City plan.

The Centre has spent over Rs 1,000 crore in Chandigarh under the Smart City project, he said.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, aimed to ensure clean drinking water, Shah said the work on ensuring water in 15 crore houses has been completed in less than seven years.

Clean drinking water has been ensured in 74 per cent of houses in the country, he further said.

After the start of Jal Jeevan Mission, there was a drop in the number of diarrhoea deaths.

Earlier there used to be four lakh deaths due to diarrhea and now there is a drop of three lakh in it, he said.

As far as Chandigarh city is concerned, five sewage treatment plants have been set up and an Integrated Command and Control Centre has also been established to streamline traffic movement, said Shah.

He said there is a reduction of 40 per cent in traffic related violations and 31 per cent drop in accidental deaths.

For the development of Chandigarh, the Centre spent Rs 30,000 crore in the last 10 years, he added.

Shah also praised former MP Kirron Kher for her efforts towards bringing the water supply project in the city.

The water supply project will benefit over one lakh residents of Manimajra, including those living in Modern Housing Complex, Shivalik Enclave, Indira Colony, and Shastri Nagar.

The project, a part of the Smart City mission, is aimed at avoiding wastage of water by minimising storage through continuous high-pressure supply.

The other objectives of the project include water resource augmentation through leakage reduction, smart metering, limited dependence on groundwater, and monitoring of energy consumption.

A total of 22 km water supply pipeline has been laid for this project and two underground water reservoirs, each with capacity of two million gallons per day, set up.

Later, Shah also inaugurated the e-evidence, Nyay Setu, Nyay Shruti and e-summon systems built to augment the criminal justice apparatus.

Chhari Mubarak taken..

Chhari Mubarak, said. Amidst the sound of conch shell and recitation of



Vedic hymns, sadhus accompanied the holy mace and participated in the prayers that lasted for more than two hours.

"Collective prayers were also offered for peace and prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir," it said.

The Shankaracharya temple is located atop the Zabarwan hill range near the Dalgate area and overlooks the city. Some historians are of the opinion that the temple at the top was originally built by King Sandiman (2629-2564 BC).

This temple was earlier known as Jyeshteshwara or Jyoteshwara temple. It came to be known as Shankaracharya temple after Adi Shankracharya visited it.

The Chhari Mubarak shall be taken to the 'Sharika-Bhawani' temple, Hari Parvat, in the Old Srinagar to pay obeisance to the goddess on Monday.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of over 1,100 pilgrims left a base camp here early this morning for the Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

Over 4.9 lakh pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine since the commencement of the annual yatra on June 29. Last year, a total of 4.5 lakh pilgrims had visited the shrine.

The 38th batch of 1,112 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 3.25 am in a convoy of 40 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police, the officials said. The 52-day-long pilgrimage is scheduled to conclude on August 19.

LG launches KKGs...

comprehensive support, from input supply to marketing and technological assistance to our farmers," the Lt Governor said.

Highlighting the UT Administration's resolve for the welfare of farmers of J&K, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lt Governor informed that 1500 KKGs will be established in the second phase and works will be completed by end of this year.

"At the heart of this initiative is our commitment to empower 13 lakh farmer families, including nearly 3 lakh vulnerable and marginal farmers," the Lt Governor said.

Kisan Khidmat Ghars will bridge the gap in agriculture extension worker and farmer ratio and bring essential services directly to our farmers' doorsteps and taking extension network to the highest level up to the farthest corner of the UT, he observed.

The Lt Governor said the Kisan Khidmat Ghars equipped with modern IT systems will ensure efficient delivery of critical services such as input booking, soil health monitoring, plant diagnostics, market intelligence, and capacity building.

He said the Centres will also enable farmers access to custom hiring services, Artificial Insemination, horticulture and institutional data ensuring that farmers have access to necessary and timely services.

At Kisan Unnati Sammelan, the Lt Governor also launched Kisan Khidmat Ghar mobile application, designed to provide comprehensive support to the farmers.

"Our vision is to build a smart, technology-driven, and inclusive agricultural extension system that will transform the lives of farmers of Jammu Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

He said the KKGs and the mobile application will greatly enhance accessibility to information and services, leading to better decision-making and higher productivity.

By integrating Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, and real-time data analytics, we are set to revolutionize our agricultural extension services, he added.

"Our commitment to transforming agriculture in Jammu Kashmir is unwavering. The launch of KKGs and the mobile application is a testament to our dedication to improving the lives of our farmers. This is just the beginning. As we move forward, we will continue to expand and enhance our services to ensure that every farmer in J&K benefits from these initiatives. Together, we will create a prosperous and sustainable agricultural future for Jammu Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

Farmers can use the Kisan Khidmat Ghar mobile application, for credit support, crop price forecasting, decision support, applying for government schemes, booking expert consultations, locating dealers, and accessing skilling courses, farming calendars, and guides.

The Lt Governor commended the significant contribution of HADP Apex Committee, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatiocs, Agriculture and other stakeholder departments in implementation of Kisan Khidmat Ghar initiative.

He also reiterated the commitment of UT Administration and agriculture & allied departments to the effective implementation of HADP.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mangala Rai, former DG, ICAR and Chairman, Apex Committee for Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors J&K; Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Member Apex Committee and S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology also spoke on the occasion and shared their valuable inputs on Holistic Agriculture Development Program and other key interventions in agriculture & allied sectors of J&K.

Agri-entrepreneurs associated with the Kisan Khidmat Ghars interacted with the Lt Governor and other dignitaries, and expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT administration for providing them with the opportunity to serve the farming community and earn a livelihood for themselves as well.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor initiated the grant of sanction letters worth Rs 48 crore to 764 beneficiaries across the UT under HADP.

Earlier, the Lt Governor visited the stalls put up by the Agri-entrepreneurs and farmers. He also inaugurated the Office of Mission Directorate of HADP and JKICP, and released Handbook on HADP and Guidelines on Agriculture Credits.

Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Development; Prof Nazir Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir; Yasha Mudgal, Mission Director HADP; senior officials, faculty members of SKUAST, entrepreneurs and progressive farmers were present. Agri-entrepreneurs associated with the Kisan Khidmat Ghars across the districts also joined through virtual mode.

Govt to amend Waqf...

in Parliament after introduction, the sources said.

The key changes proposed in the law include ensuring verification of land before a board announces it as a Waqf property.

Fresh verification of disputed lands claimed by various state boards will also be sought, according to the proposed bill. The changes with regard to the composition of the Waqf boards will ensure inclusion of women in these bodies.

The sources cited the recommendations of the Justice Sachar Commission and the joint committee of Parliament headed by K Rahman Khan as few of the reasons for amending the law.

"There have been demands from within the community to amend the law to bring transparency and accountability ...some Muslim high court judges had flagged that the decision taken by Waqf boards cannot be challenged in courts. Now, the amendment bill seeks to set that right," a person familiar with the government's decision said.

Reacting to the move to amend the law, senior BJP leader Dinesh Sharma said Bohra and other members of the Muslim community have raised the issue of anomalies by Waqf boards. The main reason behind this is that there have been complaints against Waqf boards, made for benefitting the minorities, being involved in other works, he claimed.

All India Muslim Personal Law Board spokesperson SQR Ilyas said, "The BJP government always wanted to do this. Following the conclusion of the 2024 (Lok Sabha) elections, we thought that there will be a change in the BJP's attitude, but that's not the case. I, however, feel that this is not the right move."

Advocate Raees Ahmad said there is a "false narrative" that a Waqf board can claim any property. Waqf board was introduced for the benefit of Muslims, he said, reacting to the move to amend the law.

Hitting out at the proposed amendments, AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said, "BJP has been against the Waqf Board and Waqf properties since the beginning and there is a 'Hindutva agenda' of the RSS. They have continued to put efforts to end the Waqf Board and properties from the start."

"Demand for improvement in Waqf board is not new, it has been going on for the past 30-40 years. Those who are raising this demand and affected by it are Muslims themselves. There is a need for betterment in the Waqf board and I hope Samajwadi Party, Congress and TMC will support it (the Bill), whenever it is introduced," said BJP leader Ajay Alok.

BJP Assembly Election...

various sections of society to frame its manifesto for the upcoming elections.

Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP chaired the meeting, which was attended by Manifesto Committee Chairman Dr. Nirmal Singh, and Committee members, BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul, J&K BJP General Secretaries Sunil Sharma, Adv Vibodh Gupta and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, BJP NEM Priya Sethi, Chief Spokesperson Adv Sunil Sethi, spokesperson RS Pathania, senior leader Devender Singh Rana and Dr. Rafiq Wani.

Other members of committee are J&K BJP Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma, Dr Drakshhna Andrabi and Dr Shehnaz Ganai.

While addressing the meeting, Kishan Reddy, who is also BJP's assembly election in-charge for J&K, emphasized on the good governance motive of the Narendra Modi government.

He said that BJP believes in the participation of common masses in its policy making and hence on the lines of Parliament elections, BJP Jammu and Kashmir will design its Assembly election manifesto in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that the senior party leaders and especially the members of the Assembly Election Manifesto Committee will do extensive public outreach with involvement of all sections of society to collect the important points to be included in the manifesto.

Ravinder Raina announced that the party has divided the region into the 7 areas namely Jammu, Rajouri-Poonch, Doda-Ramban-Kishtwar, Udhampur-Reasi, Samba-Kathua, Kashmir and Kashmir Displaced.

He said that the teams will also be formed on the district basis to have more outreach within the society and the whole process will be completed up to August 15. He said that the roadmap of the BJP will be set up by this exercise thus fulfilling the party's mission of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. Dr. Nirmal Singh said that the party leaders will meet with the prominent people from all the sections of the society like youth, women, economists, farmers etc, representatives of various communities like refugees, displaced, SCs, STs, OBCs, Paharis, employees etc, and all the other sections.

Congress, Abdullahs, Muftis...



He said the Congress & regional parties of Abdullahs and Muftis have been deliberately misleading the people and have been trying to foment anti national sentiments.

Chugh said the BJP workers must prepare themselves for the coming Assembly elections. It is time to defeat anti-national forces in J-K so that every person can enjoy the fruits of development and visionary policies of the Modi government.

Former Minister Rajiv Jasrotia addressed "BJYM Sammelan" at Bani Assembly Constituency.

DDC Ramban & Seh Prabhari Doda Rakesh Thakur addressed "BJYM Sammelan" at Banihal Assembly Constituency.

Couples enter wedlock under VDG protection in terror-hit Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA/JAMMU: As Zail Singh and Ravita Devi entered wedlock in a remote village in Doda, Village Defence Guards (VDGs) stood guard to ward off any threat from terrorists, who have infiltrated from across the border and are believed to be hiding in the higher reaches of the hilly district.

Hailing from Gadan village of Bhagwah Panchayat, Singh in his mid-20's performed the marriage rituals with Devi as per already decided dates last week despite his area witnessing a fierce gunfight between terrorists and security forces for several hours on July 9.

Doda in Jammu region was rocked by several terror incidents since June 12, which was seen as an attempt by Pakistan-based terror handlers to revive terrorism in the district after remaining peaceful for over 18 years.

On July 27, the police released sketches of three terrorists responsible for several attacks, including the one on an army search party in Dessa forest that left four soldiers including a captain martyred on July 15.

"The back-to-back terror attacks have sparked panic among the people. This is the marriage season, so we are coming forward to ensure that people celebrate their important occasions without the shadow of terror," 55-year-old VDG member Bharat Singh, a resident of Gadan village, told PTL.

He said the VDGs have provided security

for a few marriage ceremonies in the village and adjoining areas and will be doing so for several other functions which are in pipeline as "people feel safe" by their presence.

Besides the deadly encounter in Dessa forest, the terrorists also injured at least 10 security personnel in separate attacks at Chattergalla pass, Gandoh, Kastigarh and Ghadi Bagwah forest between June 12 and July 18. Three terrorists were killed in a day-long operation in the Gandoh area of the district on June 26, while the search is on to neutralize other splinter groups hiding in the dense forests.

The VDG member said Zail Singh's father Karan Singh is a Special Police Officer (SPO), so the threat from terrorists was felt more for this function.

"We not only provided protection to the family in the village but also accompanied the 'bhaarat' till Deoli village enroute to Koti, some 25 km from Gadan. We returned from halfway after another VDG party took over the charge," he said.

Recalling past terror attacks on villagers in the district between 1995 and 2006 which claimed a number of lives, Bharat Singh said the VDGs who were earlier known as Village Defence Committees (VDCs) are protecting their villages round-the-clock and had voluntarily come forward to provide protection to families celebrating marriage of their children.

Crypto fraud: ED seizes Rs 1 Cr cash after raids in Leh, other places

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: An amount of Rs 1 crore and "incriminating" documents were seized following raids against operators of a "fake" cryptocurrency investment company that cheated people in Ladakh and some other places, the Enforcement Directorate said Sunday.

The searches were undertaken on August 2 in Leh, Jammu and Sonipat in Haryana under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Officials had said this was the first time that the federal anti-money laundering agency carried out searches in Ladakh.

The probe pertains to cheating of innocent people, including people of Leh, by

assuring them of doubling their investment in a short period of 10 months through investment in fake cryptocurrency named Emollient Coin, the agency said in a statement.

This "fake" cryptocurrency, as per the ED, was represented and promoted by Naresh Gulia of Sonipat through a company named Emollient Coin Limited that was incorporated in September, 2017 in the United Kingdom.

The business was promoted at Leh by Ajay Kumar Chaudhary and Charanjeet Singh alias Chunni of Jammu and Attiul Rehman Mir of Leh and investors were assured that their investment will be doubled in 10 months and they will get a

fixed percentage commission through the marketing of the fake crypto currency, it alleged.

The money laundering investigation stems from a March 2020 FIR filed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The money collected from this alleged fraud business was laundered and utilised for personal use and for the purchase of various immovable properties and assets by the accused, the ED said.

An amount of Rs 1 crore in cash was seized apart from several incriminating documents, property documents and digital devices during the searches, it said.

It did not specify from which location or premise the cash and documents were seized.

Two drug peddlers arrested; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: To eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Sopore have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

A police party of Police Station Sopore headed by SHO PS Sopore and IC PP Warpora under the supervision of SDPO Sopore, at a checkpoint established at Brath Road near Butchek Mode, intercepted two suspected persons identified as Tabish Nazir Bhat son of Nazir Ahmad Bhat resident of Dangerpora Sopore and Javaid Ahmad Tantray son of Abdul Majeed Tantray resident of Khumbal Handwara. During search, officers were able to recover 52 grams of Heroin from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 187/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sopore & investigation has been initiated.

Bootlegger arrested, 50 quarters of illicit liquor recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police tightening its noose against bootlegger, Police party of BPP Sandwan headed PSI Saddam Hussain apprehended one person namely Ranjeet Singh, son of Joginder Singh, resident of Ghou Manhasa who was found selling illicit liquor to the local inhabitants at Ghou Manhasa near ring road, and during search 50 Quarters of JK Special whisky 180 ML each got recovered from his possession kept in his scooty bearing Reg no JK02AX 1983. In this regard cognizance has been taken and FIR under relevant sections has been registered at PS Domana.

Drug peddler arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its actions against drug peddlers under Ops SANJEEVANI, a police party of Police Post Bathindi Jammu while on routine patrolling/frisking During performing patrolling/frisking duty at Malik Market NHW, they noticed that one person coming by foot from Narwal side , on seeing police party he tried to hide himself and turned back quickly in suspicious manner but police party stopped him with high efforts.

On this police party successfully overpowered the above said person and detained him. On inquiry he disclosed his name as Ravi Kumar Kumar S/O Kishan Age 47 years R/O Baag Phool Chand Firoze Pur, Punjab. During his personal search more than 20 grams heroin (chitta) like substance recovered from his possession.

In this regard a case FIR No. 183/2024 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered with police station Bahu Fort Jammu and investigation of the case set in motion . The whole proceedings have been done under the supervision of SDPO City East assisted by SHO PS Bahu Fort and SI Shakil Ahmed ICPP Bathindi under overall supervision of SP City South and SSP Jammu.

Further, Police is investigating into the backward and forward linkages in narco smuggling and peddling angle.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 5 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police tightening its noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu Police team of Police Post Manwal foiled one bovine smuggling attempt in which 05 bovines rescued from vehicle bearing registration number No. JK14J-9178. The driver of the vehicle fled away from the spot after leaving behind his vehicle on road. 05 bovines were rescued and vehicle seized.

In this connection, FIR under relevant sections of law stands registered and further investigation is underway.

Crackdown on illegal mining, 6 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In a surprise operation which was carried at different locations in Rural zone of District Jammu. PS Aknoor seized 4 dumpers involved in illegal mining; PP Sidhra seized two dumpers bearing Reg.No. JK02DC-7511 and JK02DH-2391 both loaded with sand without Form A. After detaining of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

