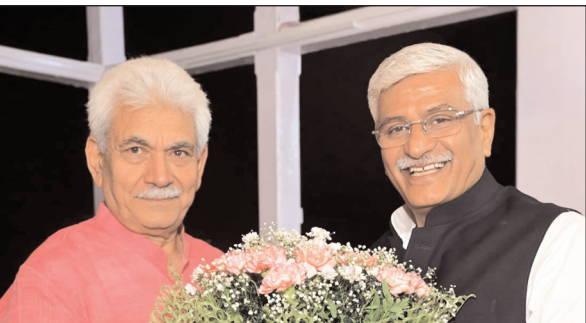


!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Improved security situation...

youth empowerment and skill development with the aim to create avenues for gainful employment," the Lieutenant Governor said.



Maj Gen Gautam; faculty members of Army War College, and senior officers of the Security Forces were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

Security for Vaishno...

the coming days, including issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd management, augmentation of holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the Bhawan area and all time surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras.

He exhorted all stakeholders to remain more vigilant so that no pilgrim without frisking and valid registration enters the track for their pilgrimage.

The CEO also reviewed various components of the disaster management measures and directed to make regular announcements and implementation of joint patrolling by the stakeholders.

The meeting decided that the main function of Independence Day celebrations will be organised in the Shrine Board's Sports Complex Katra where Garg will unfurl the tricolor and take the salute of the march past contingents from police, CRPF, shrine security, NCC and school children besides a colourful cultural programme will also be presented by the school children, the officials said.

Senior police and CRPF officers informed the meeting that foolproof security arrangements will be made for smooth and enthusiastic celebration of the national day and presented a detailed security grid to be put in place besides deployment of quick response teams and a multi-tier security grid for the pilgrims' safety.

Election Commission to...

exercise, the number of Assembly seats has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Last December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

In a fresh indication that the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir are imminent, the Election Commission last week asked the Union Territory administration to transfer officers posted in their home districts, an exercise it holds ahead of conducting elections.

The commission has been following a consistent policy that officers directly connected with the conduct of elections in a poll-bound state or Union Territory are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a considerably long period.

It is usual for the poll panel to issue instructions related to transfers of officers ahead of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

In June, it decided to accept applications seeking allotment of 'common symbols' from registered unrecognised parties in the Union Territory.

Stone pelting, strikes...

2014 and July 31, 2024, it witnessed 2,263 terror incidents, in which 944 civilians and security forces lost their lives -- which is a 69 per cent drop in terror incidents and 67 per cent dip in deaths due to them, it said.

During the UPA era, 1,060 security personnel had died in terror attacks while under the BJP government, there has been a 44 per cent decrease with 591 deaths, the data said.

The results are the outcome of a "policy of zero tolerance" against terrorism and other steps undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Bringing improvement in the security and quality of life of people in Jammu and Kashmir is the top priority of the government, officials said and added that the government has taken a number of steps for the demolition of the terror ecosystem -- de-radicalisation efforts, crackdown on terror finance by seizure, attachment freezing of assets and banning of anti-national organisations.

The officials said multi-pronged strategy to prevent infiltration, multi-layered deployment, fencing, technology, monitoring of UAPA Cases through qualitative disposal efforts, and enhancement of counter-insurgency grid by giving importance to Jammu and Kashmir Police in all operations has bore fruits in cracking down on the terror apparatus in J&K.

The entire terror eco-system is now targeted by the security agencies with a special focus on modernisation and strengthening of security equipment, they said.

The government has acted to restrict terror glorification, implemented curbs on public funerals, removed terror supporters from government jobs, taken action against alleged terrorists in the bar council and barred terrorist supporters from government contracts, they said.

The crackdown on terror has resulted in a "marked improvement" in the lives of citizens with functional schools, a surge in tourists to a record (2.11 crore) figure and an increase in income generation for people, they said.

The steps by the government have enabled a successful G-20 tourism group meeting in Srinagar, 4.5 lakh pilgrims successfully undertaking the Amaranth Yatra in 2023 and after 34 years, the Muharram procession was allowed on the traditional route in Srinagar where nearly 40,000 people took part, they said. Elections in all the five parliamentary constituencies in J&K were also held peacefully with record voting, they said.

Contact established with...

down and neutralise the holed-up terrorists, the officials said.

In April, a village defence guard was killed in a gunfight with terrorists in the Dudu area of Basantgarh.

Amarnath Yatra: 5...

More than 4.90 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine so far this year against 4.50 lakh in 2023.

The 39th batch of 1,873 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu at 3:25 am in a convoy of 69 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police, the officials said.

The yatra was halted on Monday as a precautionary measure in view of the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

SMVDSB run souvenir...

and emergency services personnel, the officials said.

They said the yatra to the shrine remained unaffected as devotees passed the trek without any hindrance while the fire-fighting operation continued for nearly an hour.

B'desh President dissolves...

was freed from house arrest. The 79-year-old former prime minister has long battled various ailments, including issues related to the kidney, lung and heart.

The process to release those arrested Since July 1 has started, and many have already been released, he added.

The Students Against Discrimination group earlier set a deadline for dissolving the 12th parliament which was formed after the January 7 elections installing Hasina as the premier for the fourth straight term.

In a video posted on social media early Tuesday, Nahid Islam, one of the key coordinators of the movement, proposed Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as the head of interim government.

He said they have already talked with 84-year-old Yunus, who has agreed to take the responsibility to save Bangladesh.

"No government other than the one proposed by the students will be accepted. As we have said, no military government, or one backed by the military, or a government of fascists, will be accepted," said Nahid, flanked by two other coordinators.

Yunus is currently out of the country but welcomed the ouster of Hasina's

regime, describing the development as the "second liberation" of the country. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank, a mode; which was replicated across continents.

He has agreed to lead the interim government as its chief adviser, the Daily Star reported, citing a source.

"If the students can sacrifice so much, if the people of the country can sacrifice so much, then I also have some responsibility. Then I told the students that I can take the responsibility," Yunus said.

He had been in a protracted row with Hasina's government due to obscure reasons while authorities initiated a series of investigations against him after she came to power in 2008. He was charged under dozens of cases. In January, Yunus was sentenced to six months in jail by a court on charges of labour law violation.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the anti-government protests on Tuesday climbed to 440, with 100 more deaths reported after Hasina's departure, according to local media, even as efforts were on by the army to bring the situation under control in the violence-hit nation.

Despite the high death toll, there were signs of a return to normalcy on Tuesday, with police and army patrolling the streets, BDNews24.com news portal said.

The situation in Dhaka was largely calm on Tuesday after a day of unrest and a night of tension. Buses and other public transport were on the streets and traders were opening shops. Government vehicles were heading to offices. Many battery-run rickshaws plied the roads, it added.

CS reviews promotion...

maintained that these depict our rich culture and heritage in the past, therefore pretty significant for the awareness of our younger generations.

He underscored the need of completing digitization of all the archival material for its preservation and easy access to all. He enjoined upon the officers to take the tendering process to logical conclusion so that this important task is completed forthwith.

Dulloo also emphasised upon completing the ongoing works of restoration of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, starting work on the drag lift there besides creating other facilities there.

He asked about the activities held by the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages across the UT. He directed for utilizing the spaces of Kala Kendra, Jammu and Tagore Hall, Srinagar more optimally for promotion of art and culture round the year.

The Chief Secretary further took note of the project for completion of balance work of SPS Museum here. He also advised for formulating a feasible DPR for Tehzeeb Mahal which could be taken up and completed in a reasonable period of time.

On this occasion the Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta gave insights about the working of the Department and the action taken by them to implement the previous directives.

He made out that the segregation of records has almost been completed and the NIT for digitization would be floated by Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums shortly.

Gupta further apprised the meeting that the restoration/ conservation/ preservation of 35 heritage sites was taken up under Phase-I of the scheme. He also gave out that under phase-II, DPRs of 126 heritage sites/shrines had been received for finalization by expert committee.

It was added that among 200 monuments iconography of 80 had been done so far. It was given out that exercises are underway to bring these monuments on tourism map in association with the Department of Tourism.

Moreover the meeting was apprised that the work on modernization of SRS Library, Jammu taken in hand at a cost of Rs 6.93 Cr is at advanced stage of completion. It was said that the work on new Library buildings including District Library Baramulla, Tehsil Library Kreeri, Tehsil Library Aishmuqam, Tehsil Library Bhaderwah and Tehsil Library Kishtwar would also be completed in this year only.

About modernization of Libraries, it was divulged that 1st Volume of the descriptive catalogue of Persian manuscripts has been completed. While that of Arabic and Sanskrit Manuscript is currently under proof reading process.

It was informed that the internet connectivity is being ensured in all the Tehsil Libraries with 6 of them already provided the same. Further in the first instance, timings of SPS Library Srinagar & SRS Library Jammu have been extended from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM for the ease of students and other people preparing for different competitive examinations.

Dumping of plastic...

Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to file an affidavit within four weeks on the issue.

The bench also clarified its earlier order directing the Bihar government to ensure that no further illegal construction or unauthorised encroachment takes place adjacent to the river Ganga, particularly in and around Patna City.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Patna resident Ashok Kumar Sinha against a June 30, 2020 order of NGT dismissing his plea against illegal constructions and permanent encroachments on the eco-fragile floodplains.

The plea contended that the tribunal passed the order without examining the detailed particulars of the violators encroaching upon the Ganga floodplains in Patna submitted by the appellant. "The illegal and unauthorized constructions and permanent encroachments on the floodplain of Ganga are creating tremendous amounts of waste, noise and generating vast quantum of sewage.

The plea stated that the tribunal failed to note the fact that a clean Ganga river was vital and essential to meet the drinking and domestic water needs of 5.5 lakh population of the city as the groundwater in the district was contaminated with Arsenic. "A massive 520 acres of ecologically sensitive Ganga floodplain, stretching from Nauzer Ghat to Nurpur Ghat, in Patna, have been usurped. This stretch is prone to recurrent floods every year.

"A multi-storey building, belonging to the Takhat Shri Harmandir Sahib, has further come up since 2017 and parts, thereof, are still under construction," the plea said.

Drug menace in Kashmir, Married couple spends around Rs 1 crore on drugs Sell ornaments, land, and other belongings to purchase drugs

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: As the younger generation in Kashmir valley suffers from menace of drugs and the administration is trying to control it by destroying the ecosystem of drug mafias and police is seizing the properties of drug peddlers and handlers, the situation is still not as encouraging as it should be.

There are many stories that are shocking for the society but the most shocking story is from south Kashmir where there is amarrised couple who spent nearly one crore rupees on drug addiction, but they are now seeking to overcome their dependence and are undergoing treatment.

Initially, the man was a drug addict, and later his wife became involved due to his influence.

Sameer (name changed) recounted that he started as a smoker but later befriended a drug addict, which led him into addiction.

"Once I became fully involved, I started selling my belongings to purchase drugs. At the same time, I got married," he said.

"At first, I hid my addiction from my wife, but eventually, she found out and began asking me about it. I used to tell her that it was just a medicine that kept me tension-free."

Sameer said his wife unknowingly began using the same drug to alleviate her own stress, and soon both were deeply entrenched in addiction.

His wife Sumaiya (name changed), said, "Once I got fully involved, I sold everything, including my ornaments, land, and other belongings, just to manage my drug use."

She added, "I would sell things, and my husband would manage drugs for both of us."

After exhausting their resources and spending around Rs 80 lakh to one crore on addiction, they began to regain clarity after being counselled by their parents and relatives. This made them visit an Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) for help.

Both expressed initial scepticism about their ability to overcome their addiction, but with proper guidance, counselling and treatment at the ATF, they have successfully begun to recover.

A doctor at ATF treating the couple told that while the woman has almost fully recovered and is under observation, the man is still undergoing treatment but is adhering to it rigorously.

He said anyone can break free from addiction with the right treatment and support from family and society. "Many individuals do not seek treatment due to social stigma," the doctor said. He urged society to eliminate these stigmas and support those in need.

12 operation of medical store suspended for unethical practices

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: The Drug Control Officer Anantnag has closed down the operation of a medical store at Sirhama Bijbehara till further orders for violating the conditions of licenses and for overwriting the prescription of a medical officer PHC Sirhama.

On receiving complaint from PHC Sirhama regarding the unethical practices by Rather medicate Sirhama, Drug Control authority Anantnag acted promptly and raided the medical store of Naseer Ahmad Rather at opp PHC Sirhama. During investigation and after checking the CCTV surveillance system of the medical store, it has been established that the licensee has violated the prescription norms. Records of various medicines which are prone to addiction and those which have been prescribed/ injected unethically to the patient have been demanded for further course of action under Law. The Drug Control officer also inspected the Drug Store of PHC Sirhama and requested the health care professionals posted in the facility to share such incidents, if any, with the drug control authority mainly in the interest of patient care.

2 drug peddlers arrested; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Kulgam have arrested 02 drug peddlers and recovered contraband substance from their possession. A police party headed by In-charge Police Post Mirbazar during patrolling at village Nipora intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK03B-5292 with 02 persons onboard. During search, officers were able to recover 7.3 Kgs of Poppy Straw like contraband substance concealed in a nylon bag. They have been identified as Shafat Ahmad Khanday son of Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday resident of Damjan and Jora Singh son of Darshan Singh resident of Dholan Ludhiana, Punjab. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in commission of crime has also been seized. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 202/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been initiated.

65-year-old man injured in wild bear attack

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A 65-year-old man was injured when a wild bear attacked him in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said.

Mohammad Bashir was on his way to a nearby forest area when the bear attacked him in Loran area, they said. According to the officials, Bashir's cries for help alerted nearby residents, who rushed to the spot and scared the bear away. Bashir sustained multiple injuries, particularly on his face, in the attack, they said. He was shifted to Raja Sukhdev Singh district hospital for treatment in Poonch, the officials said.

Kingpin narcotics peddler nabbed in Rajouri; cannabis, drugs tablets recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A kingpin narcotics peddler has been arrested by police in Rajouri alongwith a consignment of Cannabis like substance and huge quantities of banned drug tablets.

In an official statement, police disclosed that a special naka was laid by a team of police station Rajouri headed by SHO Rajouri and assisted by Incharge Police Post Chingus at Bela colony, Rajouri.

During this naka checking, a suspect was noticed moving in suspicious condition, who were intercepted and put to frisking, when Cannabis like substance, weighing as much as 1.05 Kg and banned drug tablets of Tepandadol numbering 1200 were recovered from his possession.

The suspect was apprehended at the spot and has been identified as Shahbaz Ahmed @Lodhi son of Mohd Aslam, resident of Leerah Darhal, presently at Kheora, Rajouri.

Accused is a kingpin narcotics peddler and has been arrested in instant case registered in FIR no. 354/2024 U/Ss 8/20/25 NDPS Act, at PS Rajouri.

Police stated that the arrest of this accused is a major success as he has been very covertly deceiving police and carrying out this illegal trade in Rajouri town and its peripheral areas.

Police further said that investigation is in progress to dig deep and unearth the forward and backward linkages with respect to purchase and sale of recovered narcotics.

Police acts tough against traffic violations, two matadors seized for overloading

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police team acting tough on overloading in public transport seized two minibuses and booked their drivers for endangering life of people. On an information received through reliable sources that two Matadors bearing Regn. No.JK02U-9521 and JK02T-7049 driven by unknown drivers were on way from Akhnoor towards Mawa area in very rash and negligent manners which were overloaded with passengers from inside and also sitting on the roof top of the matadors.

On this information a Case FIR No.144/2024 U/s 281/125 BNS, 194 MV Act got registered in police station Akhnoor .

During investigation police party of PS Akhnoor did hectic efforts and seized both matadors from Koudewala area and also arrested Matador drivers namely Sakinder Manhotra, son of Butti Ram, resident of Narayna khour and Nittu Kumar, son of Simru Ram, resident of Mawa Brahma Akhnoor.

Cyber Cell recovers defrauded amount of Rs 5 2,900

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cyber cell DPO Jammu, a dedicated unit to deal with cases of online frauds and cyber crime who has been relentlessly working day in and day out for ensuring the safety and security of masses in general has once again successfully recovered hard earned money of the complainant. The fraudster fraudulently transferred the complainants hard earned money into his bank account .

The cyber cell DPO Jammu took no time to start the investigations and acted swiftly while exhibiting the ultimate professional excellence through its dedicated skilled human resource which was put to task and in no time the lost amount of Rs 40,000/-was recovered from the erring fraudster. Cyber Cell DPO Ramban also recovered and successfully refunded an amount of Rs 12,900 in a complaint. Brief fact of the cases are that Cyber Cell DPO Ramban received a complaint regarding the online financial fraud. After receiving the Complaint, Cyber Cell DPO Ramban immediately swung into the action and started the enquiry into the matter and made hectic efforts which ultimately recovered the defrauded amount of Rs 12,900/- which was swindled by online scams.

FIR registered against driver, vehicle seized for traffic violations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Continuing its special drive against the traffic violation, Doda Police today on 6th of August,2024, seized a passenger vehicle (Matador) and registered FIR against the driver for traffic violation in Gandoh area. Giving details , Police said that it was learnt through reliable sources that, one vehicle Metadolor bearing Regd No JK06A-3799, driven by driver namely Zakir Hussain S/O Mohd Sain R/O Kencha Bitola Tehsil Kahara was plying from Doda to Choumury via Gandoh, in rash and negligent manner and at a high speed, causing danger to the public and other vehicles plying on the road and the passengers boarding on it. During checking the vehicle found overload of (09) passengers against the seating capacity .

Upon this, Case FIR No 81/2024 U/S 281,125 BNS 194-A M.V Act was registered in this P/S Gandoh and investigation of the case has been started.

2 dumpers indulged in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Acting sternly against illegal mining within the district, today J&K Police at district Kathua seized 02 Dumpers indulged in illegal transportation of construction material(Bajri) in the jurisdictional area of PP Nagri. A Police team headed by IC PP Nagri under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua & SHO PS Kathua during patrolling/checking in its jurisdictional area at Nagri seized 02 Dumpers bearing Reg. No.s JK21J-9353 being driven by Ram Lal S/o Bansil Lal R/o Chann Rorrian & JK08K-9976 being driven by Devinder Singh S/o Parshotam Singh R/o Dyalachak which were indulged in illegal transportation of construction material (Bajri) without any legal permission. Meanwhile both the dumpers indulged in illegal mining were seized & immediately handed over to the officials of the Geological and Mining department Kathua for further legal proceedings.

JKGS condoles mysterious death of girls

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: All Jammu and Kashmir Gaddi Sabha (AJKGS) youth president Kuldeep Kumar condoled sudden demise of two sisters and their mother who died in a mysterious circumstances in upper Rassain a remote village of Tehsil Ramnagar. While in a another incident one boy and girl also died mysteriously at village Satyalta in Chenani.

According to Kuldeep two innocent girls identified as Anu Devi 13 years and Sapna Devi 10 years D/o Yash paul died Mysteriously. He added unfortunately mother of victims identified as Poli Devi 31 years W/o Yash paul also left for heavenly abode on monday. After all three members of a single family dead within a couple of days. The mysterious deaths have shocked the entire community. Yet in another incident which took place at satyalta where Shova Devi D/O Mohan Lal age 11 yrs and Mohit Kumar Son of Parshotam kumae also found dead. Both the families belongs to ST Gaddi tribes. Therefore whole gaddi community express deep condolence over thier death and urges the local administration as well as LG Manoj Sinha to please help these two poor families and do extend compensation rather relief to both victim families.