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Mohan Bhagwat to...

Describing the tour as a 'routine visit', the functionary said it is part of the RSS chief's itinerary to meet and interact with Sangh workers across the country. During his three-day visit, Bhagwat will hold several meetings with workers of the outfit and its affiliates to discuss organisational issues. He is also scheduled to address a meeting of eminent personalities from Jammu as part of the Sangh's outreach programme, the functionary said. In March this year, Bhagwat was scheduled to virtually address the members of the Kashmiri pandit community, but could not do so as he got sick. On Thursday, Bhagwat arrived in Udaipur, Rajasthan as part of his four-day tour to the state. During the stay, the RSS sarsangchalak will discuss the efforts being made by the volunteers for expansion of work for the development of villages and betterment of the environment, a statement said.

Police books 3...

substances from the possession of three notorious drug peddlers, identified as Javaid Ahmad, Shamim Ahmad and Jahangir Ahmad," the spokesman said. Accordingly, cases were registered in respective police stations and the accused were arrested. "The cases were duly processed and after obtaining sanctions from the authorities concerned, the arrested drug peddlers was detained under the Public Safety Act and shifted to the Centre Jail in Kotbhalval in Jammu," the spokesman said. In another case, the police in Anantnag district recovered 60 kg charas powder from the house of Gh Mohi-ud-din Mantoo and 10.5 kg charas from the house of Wazeer Ahmad Lone. "The accused house owner Gh Mohi-ud-din managed to flee from the spot, while as Wazeer Ahmad was arrested," the spokesman said.

Centre approves Govt...

in Budget 2021-22 with an intention to set up an asset reconstruction company and an asset management company to take over the existing stressed assets like loans," Sitharaman said. The government also announced the setting up of India Debt Resolution Company Limited in which the public sector banks and public financial institutions will have a maximum of 49% stake while the rest will be for private players. PSBs will also have 51% ownership in NARCL.

GST Council to...

proposal to treat food delivery apps such as Zomato and Swiggy as restaurants and levy a 5 per cent GST tax on supplies made by them would be taken up by the Council at its meeting in Lucknow on September 17. "Finance Minister Snt @nsitharaman will chair the 45th GST Council meeting at 11 AM in Lucknow tomorrow. The meeting will be attended by MOS Shri @mppechaudhary besides Finance Ministers of States & UTs and Senior officers from Union Government & States," the Finance Ministry tweeted. The Council, comprising central and state finance ministers, will deliberate on the proposal of extending the existing concessional tax rate structure on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab, Remdesivir and anti-coagulants like Heparin, till December 31, 2021, from the present September 30. "Tax rate on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab was cut to 'Nil', while Remdesivir and Heparin was reduced to 5 per cent in June 2021. The Council on Friday may also discuss the proposal of reducing GST from 12 per cent to 5 per cent to seven more drugs till December 31, 2021. These are Itolizumab, Posaconazole, Infliximab, Bamlanivimab & Etesevimab, Casirivimab & Indevimab, 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose and Favipiravir.

To curb tax evasion, the proposal to make the food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato liable to pay the Goods and Services Tax on restaurant services supplied through them would also be considered by the Council. Once approved by the GST Council, food delivery apps will have to collect and deposit GST with the government, in place of restaurants, for deliveries made by them. There would be no extra tax burden on the end consumer. As per estimates, tax loss to exchequer due to alleged under-reporting by food delivery aggregators is Rs 2,000 over the past two years. In light of the Kerala High Court order, the Council will also discuss taxing petrol and diesel under the GST, a move that may require huge compromises by both central and state governments on the revenues they collect from taxing these products. In June, the Kerala High Court, based on a writ petition, had asked the GST Council to decide on bringing petrol and diesel within the GST ambit. The Council will also discuss the interim report of a state-ministerial panel on capacity based taxation on pan masala and composition scheme for brick kilns and stone crushers.

The Panel has recommended a Special Composition Scheme in the Brick Kiln sector with effect from April 1, 2022, prescribing a GST rate of 6 per cent, without ITC, similar to the rate in the services sector. It has also suggested hiking the GST rate on supply of bricks from 5 per cent to 12 per cent (with ITC), with effect from April 1. The council will review and also clarify regarding GST rates 32 goods and 29 services. The items under review are Zolgensma and Viltespo medicines for personal use, solar PV modules, copper concentrate, carbonated beverage with fruit juice, coconut oil, scented sweet supari, oncology medicine, and diesel-electric locomotives.

Face Recognition System...

and Civil Secretariat, Jammu for monitoring the arrival and departure of the employees. However, it has been noted that some employees are not marking their attendance through the Biometric Face Recognition System, while there are some who are not registered on the system as yet, the government said in a circular. After reviewing the matter, the government ordered that all the employees shall mark their attendance on arrival and departure electronically with effect from 27th of September through Biometric Face Recognition System' at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar and Jammu respectively. The employees who are not registered on Biometric System till date have been directed to enroll themselves through Information Technology Department by or before 27th of September positively, for which the Information Technology Department shall make immediate arrangements. All Drawing & Disbursing Officers in the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu shall draw the salary of the employees for the month of October and onwards only upon obtaining a report of Bio-metric attendance in respect of employees working in their departments, it reads. The Information Technology Department shall install two additional Biometric Face Recognition Systems each at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar and Civil Secretariat, Jammu at different locations to ensure implementation of COVID Appropriate Behaviour, it added.

LG announces support...

order to protect the citizens. Fire & Emergency services personnel are real-life superheroes", the Lt Governor remarked. Observing that there is no greater public service than saving lives, the Lt Governor exhorted the cadets to discharge the noble responsibility with utmost zeal and dedication. Carry forward the rich legacy of courage and bravery, and come out as a formidable force to deal with emergency situations, he asserted. The Lt Governor highlighted the government's efforts to develop the skills and

expand the scale of the emergency services to meet its increasing need in continuously developing villages, towns, and cities. We have ensured up-gradation of all facilities of Fire and Emergency Services and provision of modern fire tenders and rescue equipment, the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor said that the Exam and selection process for these posts commenced in 2013, but it was held up unnecessarily. The batch started in 2020 and it's passing out parade has shown the commitment of the present UT government towards speedy disposal of recruitment process. "A transparent and efficient mechanism has been laid down in the UT for recruitments in various posts of government jobs which is entirely based on merit", he added. Fire Fighters are also rendering distinguished and efficient services in the internal security framework of the UT. The Police Academy at Udhampur has a long history of producing brave police personnel who are doing commendable job in ensuring a safe and secure environment for the people of J&K, and securing National Unity & Integrity through counter-insurgency operations; maintaining peace, law and order, the Lt Governor observed.

Earlier, the Lt Governor inspected the Parade, and took salute at an impressive March Past by the trainee contingents. He also felicitated the cadets who excelled during their training course, on the occasion. Lal Chand, DDC chairman Udhampur; DDC members; BDC members; Pawan Kumar Gupta, Former Minister; R S Pathania, Ex MLA besides other prominent persons also attended the Passing out Parade ceremony. Dilbag Singh, DGP; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Dr. B. Srinivas, Director General, Fire & Emergency Services; Dr. S.D Singh, Director, SKPA; Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Indu Kawal Chip, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Senior officers of UT administration, BSF and Indian Airforce besides family members of the cadets were present on the occasion.

Apni Party gets...

their top slots, the two KP Coordinators, inter-allia, stated that they were being harassed on one pretext or the other, obviously for raising the issues of their hounded out community. They also took moral grandstanding of preserving their self-respect as their voiced were being choked. What does the harassment and self-respect indicate in a political party that came of the scene in Jammu and Kashmir with the plank of forming the next government? The successive desertions has put a big question mark over the well meaning initiative of the former finance minister and founder of the Apni Party Altaf Bukhari, who may not be in a position to take on the traditional political parties, especially as the elections are nearing. The hard toil of over one and a half year is going down to drain unless course correction takes place-sooner the better. Any further delay will witness leaders at all the levels deserting Apni Party, which must be a disgusting situation for its founder.

J&K Admin requires...

who are attempting to commit any of the above acts or involved in aiding or abetting or advocating the above acts. The other facets to be looked at include involvement of an individual's immediate family, persons sharing residential space with the employee to whom he or she may be bound by affection, influence, or obligation or involved in any of the acts, directly or indirectly, having potential of subjecting the individual to duress, thereby posing a grave security risk, as per the circular. "Failure to report relatives, persons sharing residential space or associates who are connected with any foreign government, associations, foreign nationals known to be directly or indirectly hostile to India's national and security interests," it read. The directions also include the failure to report unauthorised association with a suspected or known collaborator or employee of a foreign intelligence service among the criteria to be followed. "Reports indicating that representatives or nationals from a foreign country are acting to increase the vulnerability of the individual to possible future exploitation, coercion or report contacts with citizens of other countries or financial interests in other countries which make an individual potentially vulnerable to coercion, exploitation, or pressure by a foreign Government," the circular said. The GAD said on the basis of discrete verifications on the above parameters, a list of adversely reported employees received by the government from time to time shall be taken into cognisance by the administrative departments concerned which shall then immediately report it to the General Administration Department. "In the event, such employee(s) are due for promotion, their cases shall be put on hold immediately. Further, such cases shall be submitted to the UT Level Screening Committee constituted for the purpose, for a decision. "On confirmation of the adverse report by the UT Level Screening Committee, further action shall be taken against the adversely reported employee(s), which may include termination from Government services," it added. The decision of the UT Level Screening Committee can be reviewed by the Review Committee, on reference to it by the UT Level Screening Committee or on the representation of any aggrieved employee, the GAD said.

Deal strictly with...

chairing joint security review meeting during visit to South Kashmir Shopian District where he inaugurated CCTV monitoring system. The DGP was accompanied by IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar. The Security review meeting was attended by DIG South Kashmir Range, Abdul Jabbar, DIG South CRPF, N.S Nagi, Brig 12 Sector RR, Brig N. S. Grewal, SSP Shopian, Amritpal Singh, CO, 14th BN CRPF, Vishwal Khandwal, CO 178 Bn CRPF Surjeet Kumar, CO 34 RR Shaket Bhardawaj, CO 15 Gadwal, Austhosh Thapliyal, CO 44 RR Shri A,K Singh and jurisdictional officers of the district. While addressing the meeting, the DGP impressed upon the officers, to continue to put in best efforts not only to maintain peace and order in Jammu Kashmir but also to ensure that the dividends of a peaceful environment are further consolidated. He said that Jammu and Kashmir Police alongwith the other security forces have contributed in a big way in building the current conducive security scenario and would not allow enemies of peace and people to disturb it. The officers apprised the DGP J&K regarding the security measures put in place and operations underway. He said that Pak sponsored elements are trying hard to spread false and fabricated stories and propaganda by circulating some old videos and added that strong action will be taken against the elements involved in these activities. Citing the examples of Manjakot, Thana Mandi and Nowshera encounters, the DGP said that elements across the border are continuously trying to foment trouble and disturb peace in the UT by pushing terrorists here. He said that the peaceful atmosphere has been achieved after a lot of sacrifices and hard work and we would not allow anybody to disturb it.

J&K reports 170...

highest among the 20 districts in the UT. There are 1,421 active cases in the Union territory, while the number of recovered patients stands at 3,21,630, the officials said. The death toll in the UT due to the pandemic was 4,415 as no fresh death was reported in the past 24 hours. The officials said there were 46 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in Jammu and Kashmir as no fresh case was reported since Wednesday evening. Meanwhile, Ladakh recorded nine fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the infection tally to 20,625, officials said. The number of active cases in the Union Territory stands at 40, including 38 in Leh and two in Kargil district, they said. Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil - since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

No. 71/2021 under section 341, 376, 511 IPC was registered in Police Station Mahore and investigation set in. During the course of investigation Police team visited the scene of crime, medical examination of the victim conducted by doctor, circumstantial evidences collected from the spot and accused Saijan who was trying to escaped is chased & arrested immediately. The said accused is a bad character and morally corrupt person of the area.

19 bovines rescued, smuggler escapes

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS** SAMBA: Police on Thursday foiled an attempt to smuggle bovine by rescuing 19 bovines, however smuggler managed to escape from the spot. As per the details, acting on reliable information regarding transportation of bovines, a party of Police station Ghagwal led by SHO Rakesh Sharma while performing vehicle checking duty at Naka NH Tapyal, Ghagwal signalled to stop a Truck (NL01N /9277) coming from Kathua side and moving towards Valley. Instead of stopping the vehicle, the driver accelerated the speed of the vehicle but the alert cops successfully chased and intercepted the vehicle few metres away from the Naka point. However driver managed to escape from the spot taking the advantage of darkness. During checking of the said vehicle, 19 cattle were found laden in it which were rescued. FIR No. 163/2021 under section 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act was registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

13 illegal connections disconnected by JPDCL

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS** NOWSHERA: As per the directions of ED JPDCL Rajouri and under the supervision of Assistant Executive Engineer Electric subdivision Nowshera, a team head-

Five patients of coronavirus were discharged from hospitals on Wednesday, taking the tally of those cured from the infection to 20,380. The recovery rate is 98.8 per-cent, they said. All the new cases were reported from Leh, they said. A total of 1,875 sample reports in Ladakh, including 514 from Leh and 1,361 from Kargil, were found negative, they said. No Covid-related death was reported in Ladakh on Wednesday.

SMVDS Board meets...

established at SGC Katra with the aim to ease out the difficulty in finding out information from voluminous books. The meeting was attended by the Board Members - H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar; Dr. Ashok Bhan; Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli; K. K. Sharma; Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma; K. B. Kachru and Vijay Dhar in person and through virtual mode. The Lieutenant Governor, while chairing the meeting of the Shrine Board, reviewed pilgrim-centric infrastructural facilities put in place by the Board. He emphasised the need for extending the best possible facilities for the visiting pilgrims in syne with the emerging requirements with special focus on cleanliness and hygiene. To begin with, the Board reviewed the Yatra statistics of the year and discussed various measures which may be taken to further increase the yatra which steeply declined due to Covid-19 resurgence. A brief appraisal of the SMVDNS Hospital, SMVD Nursing College, SMVD Gurukul and SMVD Sports Complex was also given in the meeting. While extensively reviewing the status of the ongoing mega projects for the convenience of the pilgrims, the Board directed the CEO for the completion of Durga Bhawan within a period of 12 months, that is, by August 2022. The Board also reviewed the status of the underground cabling project, from Katra to Bhawan and the surrounding areas, which already stands allotted to M/s. JSP, a Ghaziabad-based company by the PDD of J&K Government. This high utility project will have SCADA compliance-based monitoring system of the electric network. With the implementation of this project, the existing LT / HT overhead electricity lines will be replaced by Underground Cabling to ensure uninterrupted power supply along the track and in the Bhawan area.

Taking an extensive review of the project, the Board directed for the completion of these projects in time-bound manner. While reviewing the progress of the ongoing project, the Board also directed the CEO to conceive an advertisement policy on the track to be displayed on the Hi-tech Video Walls to be installed on the track leading to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. During the meeting, the Board approved a Grant-in-Aid for the FY 2021-22 to SMVD Charitable Society which includes SMVDIME, SMVD Gurukul, SMVDNS Hospital, SMVD Sports Complex and SMVD College of Nursing. The Board took stock of the functioning of the Call Centre established with an initiative towards optimum utilization and dispersion of real-time information of the facilities created for the pilgrims. The initiative aimed at providing much-needed assistance to the pilgrims to plan their visit to this most revered holy shrine, keeping in view the prevailing weather conditions. The Board reviewed the major achievements of the Action Plan of the Annual Greening Plan 2020-2021. Several significant decisions towards employees' welfare, including modifications in the policy towards compassionate appointments, incentives for acquiring higher qualifications were also taken. The Board also approved the re-designation of the officers on deputation to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Deliberations were held on the long pending demand of the public for the completion of Shankaracharya Temple in Katra town, besides the development of connectivity to the temple as well as allied facilities. The CEO was directed to proceed further in this regard. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on the latest status of varied activities of the Board and action taken on the implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board. It was informed that the new digital library inaugurated today would reduce the huge expenditure in maintaining the manual one. It is also highly beneficial for the students and faculty of Gurukul, SMVDCoN, Officers, staff of Shrine Board as well as local public, students etc, as it has been structured with quick search facilities and various multimedia streaming technique.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor; and Vivek Verma, Additional Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB also attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

To promote film...

and production houses evinced warm response to the call of shooting in Jammu & Kashmir while reaffirming to promote J&K through their film projects and hoped to shoot their upcoming projects in the UT. They recalled with nostalgia their past connections with J&K and the warmth they have received from the local people. Several tour operators from J&K besides their counterparts from Maharashtra were present during these interactions. It may be recalled here that to promote film tourism and persuade film world to consider J&K as their preferred shooting location, the J&K administration has recently launched Film Policy which has made the permission process hassle free besides including incentives for producers opting for J&K as a shooting location.

Union Ministers step...

Chauhan had a detailed visit to Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park, Pampore while Union Minister of State for Industries and Commerce (I&C), Som Parkash reviewed the performance of I&C Department at SKIOC, Srinagar. He also interacted with the representatives of various trade bodies of Kashmir. Union Minister of AYUSH and Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated a Yoga Demonstration cum AYUSH Exhibition in Baramulla wherein young athletes showcased their yoga skills while Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda inaugurated several developmental projects and interacted with multiple public delegations, members of Panchayat Raj Institutions and political parties besides interacting with youth especially sports persons in Bandipora. As part of Union Government's public outreach programme, Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Labour & Employment, Rameswar Telu visited Doda and distributed sanction letters of LPG connections under Ujjwala-2.0, e-Shram cards among scores of beneficiaries and Covid Care relief cheques identified under Atal Bhinit Yojana.

J&K Bank gets...

of the J&K UT and requisite commitment to see it through. I am also thankful to Chief Secretary, Dr A K Mehta and Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Atal Dulloo for their insightful guidance and continued support." "The capital infusion of Rs 500 Cr is also part of the government's vision as it will give impetus to our business expansion plan by improving our risk bearing capacity substantially while meeting regulatory Basel-III norms comfortably for the next few years.", he added. Notably, the bank's recently issued Employees Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS - 2021), to raise capital of Rs 150 Cr; received an overwhelming response from the bank staff and got over-subscribed within days after the issue. The Bank got an over-subscription amount of more than Rs 200 Cr instead of the board-approved figure and will now allot the number of shares to staff in proportion to its laid-down eligibility criteria. He further said, "In terms of commitment to meet our institutional objectives, we along with our promoter and major stakeholder are moving in tandem as the capital infusion from government and successful issue of ESPS-2021 will go a long way in bolstering the confidence of all other stakeholders of Bank pushing it to accomplish greater goals in future."

ed by Assistant Engineer along with concerned F/M , M/R and line staff conducted inspection and disconnection drive at Nowshera near Bustand area. In all 31 inspections were conducted during the inspection out of which 13 illegal service lines were disconnected and 10 KW load was revised on the spot. Fine Rs 96000 were recovered on spot. Kuldeep Raj Gupta AEE electric subdivision Nowshera appealed to general public to deposit electricity bills well on time.

2 bootleggers arrested, 68 bottles of illicit liquor seized

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS** KATHUA: In its drive against the trade of illicit liquor menace in the district, Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua R C Kotwal on Thursday seized 68 bottles of illicit liquor at Billawar and arrested 2 bootleggers. As per the details, a police team led by Insp. Sunil Sharma SHO Billawar under the supervision of SDPO Billawar Arvind Kumar during special checking duty in its jurisdictional area apprehended one suspicious person who was directed to stop for checking. During checking, 48 bottles of Jk Special Whisky (180ml) illicit liquor were recovered from the possession of one accused namely Krishnan Chand, son of Bhagat Ram, resident of Amuvala Tehsil Ramkot District Kathua. While in another instance another police team led by Insp. Rajinder Khajuria In-Charge Police Post Ramkot apprehended one more suspicious person namely Ashok Kumar, son of Om Parkash, resident of Gurah Kalyal Tehsil Ramkot from respective area. During checking,11 more bottles of JK Special whisky (250ml) each and 9 Bottles of Jk Special Whisky (180 ml) each thus by making a total of overall 68 Bottles of illicit liquor were recovered from their illegal possession. The duo was arrested and FIR No. 136 & 137/2021 under section 48(A) (F) Excise Act was registered against them at Police Station Billawar.

