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J&K people repose...

sanction letters among the selected beneficiaries including adolescent children and old age persons. Later the minister participated in a plantation drive at the nearby Bishisti Zehra Park.

DDC Chairman Nazir Ahmad Khan, Deputy Commissioner Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, SSP Budgam Tahir Salim Khan along with all concerned District Officers were present on the occasion.

Two Govt teachers...

the police party in connection with a rape case that was lodged recently against him but the party came under attack from his associates who tried to help him escape police dragnet by creating a law and order problem, the official said.

"Singh is a notorious history-sheeter involved in 10 FIRs, including murder, rape and firing on police by a weapon issued under village defence committee, besides trying to disturb communal harmony and other violations during past elections," the official said.

He said Singh was "bound down" by executive magistrate twice in the past 25 years as a preventive measure to stop him from committing a crime.

Taking a serious note of the attack on the police party, the official said all the nine accused involved, including teachers Riaz Shah and Chain Singh, were arrested.

"The nine were arrested for endangering life and personal safety of others, attacking a police party and creating law and order problems in the Chassana area," he said.

He said both the teachers were booked in separate cases related to voluntarily causing hurt and other sections of the law in 2017 and 2020, respectively.

The official identified the other arrested accused as Chanar Singh, Pawan Singh, Balbir Singh, Sukhdev, Dalip Singh, Balbir Singh and Rakesh Singh.

A case of kidnapping and rape was lodged against Chanar Singh and a chargesheet already stands filed against him in the court of law, the official said, adding that another accused, Dalip Singh, was involved in a theft case in 2015.

Army search operation...

18-19, the officials said. A defence spokesman here said the search operation were going on in the area but did not elaborate if the forces had found anything to lend credence to the reports of major infiltration bid in the sector.

Officials said one soldier had sustained injuries in the "initial contact" with the adversary near the fence along the LoC, which had prompted the massive search operation to ensure that the infiltrators, if any, do not get to the hinterland.

On Monday, the authorities had snapped all telephone and internet services in Uri as a precautionary measure. The area where suspicious movement was observed falls near Gohalan, the same area from where the attack on Uri Brigade was launched by terrorists in September 2016.

Reliance says no...

Jammu are facing the "highest degree of discrimination" due to the "directionless policies" of the Union Territory government like ending age-old biannual Darbar Mave, new excise and the Geology and Mining Department policies, proposed move by big business houses like Reliance to open stores and restrictions on banquet halls, among other issues.

A group of traders under the banner of Warehouse Traders Federation staged a peaceful protest at Nehru Market here against the purported plan to open the Reliance smart stores.

Federation president Deepak Gupta, on the occasion, said all shopkeepers would observe a complete strike on Wednesday to convey a message to the government that "we are not happy with the policy decision taken in closed rooms without consulting stakeholders".

The Congress party, National Conference and the PDP have already extended their support to the bandh call.

J&K Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said the party fully supports the bandh call on the burning issues which is bound to wipe out small and middle-class traders.

Jammu wing of J&K High Court Bar Association president M K Bhardwaj also extended support to the strike and said, "The people of Jammu are united on all issues which affect the common man.

"We will not tolerate injustice and discrimination with Jammu region and continue peaceful agitation to safeguard the interests of the people," Bhardwaj told reporters here.

He hoped that Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and his administration would take note of the problems being faced by lawyers, traders, businessmen, farmers, unemployed youths besides the civic and infrastructural deficiencies in Jammu region and address the same to make life easier for the people.

The National Conference also extended its support to the strike and said the party has all along stood for safeguarding the interests of Jammu and Kashmir and will continue to do so with a sense of commitment.

"The administration will see reason in its anti-business and anti-poor policies and take corrective measures, rather than coming up with move after move that hurt the overall interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the party said in a statement. It also urged the J&K administration to roll back the decisions, which, it said, are against the legitimate interests of trade and commerce.

Two pilots killed...

on Tuesday, officials said.

"Today, during a training sortie in Patnitop area, Indian Army's Cheetah helicopter crashed-landed in Shiv Garh Dhar area in the district," a Jammu-based defence spokesman said.

He said that two pilots -- Major Rohit Kumar and Major Amj Rajput -- were injured in the incident and evacuated to the nearest medical facility but they succumbed later.

Army Commander, Northern Command, Lt Gen Y K Joshi paid rich tributes to the slain officers.

"Army Commander, Northern Command, and all other ranks salute the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on 21 September 2021 at Patnitop and offer deepest condolences to their families," the Army's Northern Command said in a tweet.

Officials said the incident reportedly occurred between 10.30 am to 10.45 am when the chopper was caught in bad weather, officials said, adding the helicopter belonged to the Army Aviation Corps.

There was a thick fog over Patnitop when the incident occurred, they said.

Local residents were the first to reach the site and they pulled out the pilots from the severely damaged helicopter, they added.

Police, along with the Army, rushed to the scene to join the rescue operation and evacuated the injured pilots to a hospital, the officials said.

DB seeks detail...

prosecutions against elected representatives (MPs and MLAs) are concluded expeditiously. The Court was of the opinion that such special consideration was required not only because of the rising wave of criminalization that was occurring in the politics in the country, but also due to the power that elected representatives (sitting or former) wield, to influence or hamper effective prosecution. Additionally, as legislators are the repositories of the faith and trust of their electorate, there is a necessity to be aware of the antecedents of the person who is/was elected. Ensuring the purity of democratically elected institutions is thus the hallmark of the present proceedings.

However, despite all the initiatives taken by this Court in the present petition, there has been no substantial improvement in the situation when it comes to the disposal of pending criminal cases against sitting/former legislators (MPs and MLAs). Now, that we are well equipped with the information and data collected from the various High Courts, and looking at the suggestions made by the learned amicus, the learned Solicitor General and other learned counsel, we are better placed to assess the existing situation.

With respect to increasing the number of Special Courts and rationalizing the pending criminal cases, we deem it appropriate that, before passing any specific direction in respect thereto, it would be appropriate to direct the Chief Justice of each High Court to formulate and submit an action plan for rationalization of the number of Special Courts necessary, with respect to the following aspects total number of pending cases in each district, required number of proportionate Special Courts, number of Courts that are currently available, Number of Judges and the subject categories of the cases, tenure of the Judges to be designated, Number of cases to be assigned to each Judge, Expected time for disposal of the cases, Distance of the Courts to be designated and adequacy of infrastructure.

SC further ordered that the Chief Justices while preparing the action plan should also consider, in the event the trials are already ongoing in an expeditious manner, whether transferring the same to a different Court would be necessary and appropriate and they shall also designate a Special Bench, comprising themselves and their designate, in order to monitor the progress of these trials.

SC further said that the Chief Justices are also requested to give their comments on the other suggestions of the amicus, as extracted by us in our order dated 10.09.2020 and this order. They are also requested to send us additional suggestions, if any, for the purpose of expedient disposal of pending criminal cases against

legislators. The action plan, with the comments and suggestions of the learned Chief Justices of the High Courts, are to be sent to the Secretary General of this Court, preferably within a week.

SC asked Chief Justices of all the High Courts to list forthwith all pending criminal cases involving sitting/former legislators (MPs and MLAs), particularly those wherein a stay has been granted, before appropriate bench(es) comprising of the learned Chief Justice and/or their designates. Upon being listed, the Court must first decide whether the stay granted, if any, should continue, keeping in view the principles regarding the grant of stay enshrined in the judgment of this Court in Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency Private Limited v. CBI, (In the event that a stay is considered necessary, the Court should hear the matter on a day-to-day basis and dispose of the same expeditiously, preferably within a period of two months, without any unnecessary adjournment. It goes without saying that the Covid-19 condition should not be an impediment to the compliance of this direction, as these matters could be conveniently heard through video conferencing.

SC further ordered that the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts are directed to place a copy of this order and our earlier order dated 10.09.2020 before the Chief Justices of their respective High Courts forthwith, for necessary directions.

120 JKPS officers...

Vikram Singh, Mushtaq Ahmad, Ab. Wahid Giri, Rajinder Kumar, Mohd Saleem, Rannish Kumar, Pashotan Kumar Mengi, Kuldeep Raj Tirpathi, Vinod Kumar, Ajay Kumar Sharma, Hira Lal Pandita, Madan Mohan Singh, Ram Singh, Syroz Ahmed, Ajiaz Ahmed Mir, Chanderjit Singh, Mohd Afzal, Kamaljit Singh, Jeeran Ji Matoo, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, Gurmeet Singh, Mohammad Shafi Sheikh, Jagdev Singh, Rajinder Kumar, Rajinder Kumar, Rajesh Sandal, Masood Ahmad, Mohammad Ayoub Zargar, Sheikh Zaffar Ullah, Farhat Jeelani, Pawan Kumar, Shabir Ahmad, Altaf Hussain, Mushtaq Ahmad, Syed Fayaz Ahmad, Mohd Farooq Khan, Mohammad Aslam, Shabir Ahmad Khan, Naeem Ahmad Wani, Syed Yasir Qadri, Furqan Qadir, Sandeep Bhat, Zahoor Ahmad Peer, Sachin Gupta, Sajad Ahmad Sheikh, Vishal Manhas, Vinod Kumar, Ajay Sharma, Hifaz Khalid Bhat, Fahad Tak, Imtiaz Ahmad Rather, Shah Umar, Baljit Singh, Ghulam Mohd Bhat, Shukat Rafiq Wani, Ruhail Mircha, Pardeep Kumar, Syed Majeed Mosavi, Musadiq Majid Basu, Salim Jahangir Lone, Showkat Ahmad Dar, Manish Kumar Sharma, Farhan Jehanzeb Naqash, Ashok Sharma, Prithpal Singh, Zaheer Abbas, Shafat Mohammad Najar, Fayaz Hussain Shah, Zafar Iqbal Nawaz, Mir Murtaza Hussain Sohail, Iftikhar Ahmed, Syed Javeed Ahmad, Peerzada Ajiaz Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad Khoja, Mohd Irfan Khan, Syed Sajad Hussain, Mumtaz Ali, Regzin Sandup, Arvinder Singh Kotwal, Altaf Ahmad Naik, Wajahat Hussain, Mohd Muzaffar Jan, Mohd Shafiq, Rashid Younis, Rajinder Singh, Mohd Shafi Sheikh, Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari, Mohd Aslam, Chhabil Singh, Mohan Lal, Mohd Aftab Awan, Zahid Aziz Samoon, Farooq Ahmad Wani, Mohammad Usman, Nawaz Ahmad, Govind Rattan, Bikram Kumar, Garu Ram, Nihar Ranjan, Mohd. Rafiq Manhas, Gh Hyder Khan, Mohd Rafiq, Labzang Sharb, Azad Ahmad Shah, Bashir Ahmed and Mohd Azeem Qureshi.

Civilian suffers bullet...

to his leg, the officials said. He has been hospitalised.

There are conflicting reports about the circumstances in which the civilian was injured, they said.

"Terrorists fired upon security forces while on operational duty near Lassipora Khag village in which one civilian Bilal Ahmad Rather, resident of Charhiar received injury in the leg," the Budgam police tweeted.

"The injured is stable and the search in adjacent area is going on. Credential of injured being ascertained," it said.

However, locals alleged that Ahmad was shot in the leg by security forces as he did not stop when signalled to do so.

ACB arrests Patwari...

complainant," the official said adding that the amount of bribe was recovered on the spot in presence of independent witness. Patwari was arrested and taken into custody by ACB.

J&K reports 145...

stands at 3,22,345, the officials said.

There were 46 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in Jammu and Kashmir at present, they added.

IED recovery case...

following recovery of five kgs of improvised explosive device (IED) from a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist in the Bathinda area of Jammu on June 27.

"The conspiracy by the LeT was aimed at causing an explosion in Jammu using the IED. The NIA had re-registered the case on July 19 and had earlier arrested three persons in this case," the spokesperson said.

He said investigation revealed that Pakistan-based handlers of the proscribed terror outfit, LeT, and their associates based in Jammu and Kashmir are planning terrorist activities the Union Territory using The Resistance Front (TRF) so as to maintain plausible deniability and evade law enforcement agencies.

Further investigation in the case continues, the spokesperson said.

Major incident averted...

activities there, they said.

According to the officials, the improvised explosive device (IED) was detected during the search operation. A bomb disposal squad was summoned and the device was destroyed.

India's highest altitude...

space in outdoor and indoor environments.

LiFi systems provide ultra-fast data connections, and are especially useful in urban areas where radio spectra are congested and also very useful in rural areas wherein Fiber Optic Cables or networks are not reachable.

With this LiFi setup, it said the faculties and students would get faster and safer internet connections over the existing electric power lines for various educational purposes.

Nav Wireless Technologies is the only registered company in the LiFi sector in Asia.

Elaborating on the motive behind the project, CTO of Nav Wireless Technologies Hardik Soni said, "We had approached the institute authorities for this project and they were highly impressed with such an innovative idea to provide faster, safer, and cheaper internet.

Under the leadership of SECMOL founder and president Sonam Wangchuk, the company will team up for covering the entire Ladakh and connect the unconnected areas using LiFi technology, he said.

"I am happy to see the set up for permanent internet connectivity using the innovative LiFi technology at our campus. This Li-Fi technology can bring revolutionary changes in the education sector, Wangchuk said.

He said it would enable the students to stream educational videos and download resources with flawless connectivity.

"Faculties will also benefit from conducting online lectures and improving their skills. As this technology is environment-friendly, it goes with our vision to make a pollution-free and green world," he said.

Union MoS Finance...

and Director Resources Finance Dept Showkat Hussain Mir and senior management officials of the Bank were also present on the occasion.

Briefing the Minister about the Bank's history, CMD R K Chhibber highlighted the Bank's systemic role in the overall economic functioning of the region besides emphasizing upon its major contribution in the financial transformation of J&K and Ladakh for over eight decades.

He said, "Bank's foundations are fundamentally strong because of the huge emotional equity of the people of the region besides the continued support and guidance of its promoter and major stakeholder i.e. UT Government. We have been playing instrumental role in the implementation of Union Government's flagships programs like Financial Inclusion under Prime Ministers Jan Dhan Yojna, PM Mudra Yojana, and other Social Security Schemes and more recently during the Covid19 pandemic we have contributed majorly in implementing the Finance Ministry's GECL Scheme under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan."

Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Atal Dulloo said that the government was formulating various schemes to help the local businesses. "Owing to Covid19, 1350 Cr rehabilitation package was announced by UT Government to revive businesses in J&K which included 5% interest subvention besides certain waivers of PDD and PHE dues. GST reimbursement is also being done regularly," he said.

Besides thanking the minister for patient listening, the business delegation commended the Bank's management especially CMD for providing them the platform to express their views and convey concerns to the visiting dignitary in a very free and frank manner.

MoS Finance holds...

political parties like the district Congress committee, BJP, National Conference and the J-K Panthers Party, an official spokesperson said.

Replying to issues raised by them, Karad said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed all central ministers to visit the UT to interact directly with the people and

elected bodies to ascertain the needs at the grassroots level.

Later, he handed over cheques worth Rs 4.06 lakh among beneficiaries of the chronic disease assistance and the education assistance of the labour department.

The minister also distributed wheelchairs, CP chairs and hearing aids among children with special needs and handed over keys of commercial vehicles to beneficiaries of the MUMKIN scheme.

Karad also distributed sports kits, golden cards and pension booklets among other beneficiaries.

The MoS visited the Kullan area of Kangan where he inaugurated a business unit of the J&K Bank.

Air Marshal V...

serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

"The government has decided to appoint Air Marshal V R Chaudhari, presently Vice Chief of Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Air Staff after the retirement of Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria on September 30," the ministry said in a brief statement. Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 29, 1982.

He has held command, staff and instructional appointments at various levels, including the present one as Vice Chief of Air Staff.

CS directs universal...

such, medical teams were directed to ramp up the vaccination machinery to administer 25,000 doses per day for the next 15 days.

Further, to intensify targeted vaccination through sweeping drives across the district, the Health Department was asked to depute 100 mobile vaccination teams at various interchangeable locations.

Observing that COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) is largely being ignored at various public places, the Chief Secretary directed imposition of high fines and penalties on defaulters.

Moreover, the markets at Batmaloo, Zadibal and Lal Bazar were advised to adhere to the established SOPs and CAB protocols, violation of which will lead to a complete shutdown of these areas as they are becoming the new hotspots of infections.

Dr. Mehta urged the enforcement agencies to strictly implement CAB, COVID SOPs, and protocols throughout the district by deploying 100 additional enforcement teams. They were asked to check the movement of unvaccinated people in public places, tourist destinations, and public transport.