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Resolute efforts underway...

this, for the first time, private industrial estate has been started in Jammu and Kashmir with the approval of the government, observed the Lt Governor.

Sinha praised the author for his remarkable effort in presenting J&K in a never before narrative that offers a new perspective to the readers which the world needs to know.

The author has talked about that hope in his book: "We shall retrace our steps from the brink and the birds will return home to roost". I must say that "The Birds will certainly return home", said the Lt Governor.

In his concluding remarks, the Lt Governor congratulated the author and termed the book as a must read for the scholars on Kashmir.

Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman, IGNCA Trust shared personal anecdotes about the author while informing the audience about the story behind the book and his zeal to bring out this publication while battling Covid at a hospital.

The author Jawaharlal Kaul described the book as his personal engagement with Kashmir, its unknown histories, issues and the optimism to rebuild the paradise.

Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA and Prof. (Dr.) Rajneesh Shukla, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra also spoke on the occasion.

Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean & Head, Kala Nidhi Division, IGNCA delivered the welcome address.

The event was attended by eminent personalities from all walks of life including Member Parliament Lallu Singh, Usha Joshi, Manoj Mishra and others at Samvet Auditorium of IGNCA.

J&K reports 151...

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 75 cases, followed by 31 cases in Baramulla district.

There are 1,251 active cases in the union territory as recoveries outnumbered fresh cases. The total number of recovered patients was 3,20m648, the officials said.

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic was 4,411 as one fresh death was reported in the past 24 hours.

This was the first death due to the virus in the past four days.

Meanwhile, the officials said there were 45 confirmed cases of mucormycosis or black fungus in the union territory as no fresh case was reported since last evening.

Meanwhile, the Union Territory of Ladakh recorded five fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the infection tally to 20,593, officials said.

The active caseload in the region stands at 48 as 11 more coronavirus patients were cured of the infection, they said.

Ladakh has so far registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

All the 11 Covid patients were discharged from hospitals in Leh district on Sunday, thereby taking the tally of cured patients to 20,317, which accounts for over 98 per cent recoveries, officials said.

All the five fresh cases were reported in Leh, they said.

A total of 1,991 sample reports in Ladakh, including 804 from Leh and 1,187 from Kargil, were found negative, they said.

There was no death reported due to Covid in Ladakh on Tuesday.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh has gone up to 48, including 41 in Leh and 7 in Kargil district.

J&K Police carries...

with several local publications, they said.

While police is tight-lipped about the searches, it is believed that the raids were part of an investigation into a blog post that instigates people against the country and also seeks to malign the image of nationalists in Kashmir, official sources said.

Rains lash Jammu...

for the pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, recorded the highest rainfall of 52.8 mm till 8.30 am, a spokesperson of the meteorological department said.

The pilgrimage was going on smoothly despite rains which were still continuing when last reports were received around noon. However, the helicopter service there was suspended and is likely to resume later in the day when the weather improves.

Besides Reasi, rains lashed many other parts of Jammu region including Udhampur, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, and Ramban districts.

Jammu city registered 18.5 mm and Kathua 13.2 mm of rainfall till 8.30 am when it was still raining heavily, the spokesperson said.

The official predicted that intermittent light to moderate rain is likely in the next two days, especially in the morning and evening. "The weather will remain mainly dry thereafter and there is no major rainfall for next 10 days."

Jammu city on Tuesday recorded a minimum temperature of 25.8 degrees Celsius, 2.4 notches above the normal for this time of the season, and a maximum of 33 degrees Celsius.

The official said rains raised water levels in streams and rivers across Jammu, triggering shooting of stones from the hillocks surrounding many different roads. The traffic on Bani-Basholi road in Kathua district was suspended after shooting of stones.

The traffic on the Jammu-Poonch national highway too remained suspended for over an hour due to overflowing of a stream near Manjakote in the Rajouri district.

Farm laws: SC...

just cannot dump it and they should not dump it."

Shetkari Sanghatana President Anil J Ghanwat, the panel member who had written to the Chief Justice of India on September 1 urging him to make the report public, also said the committee does not support repeal of the three laws, as being demanded by protesting farmers, but he and his organisation certainly believed that there are "many defects" in the laws that needed to be addressed.

It is therefore very important for the apex court to release the report in the public domain at the earliest to clear all apprehensions of farmers, Ghanwat told PTI.

"The report has to be made public at the earliest. If they do it tomorrow, that will be better... When the people will know the content of the report, they will decide whether the new farm laws are in favour of farmers or not," he said.

It's been five months since we have submitted our report to the court and I can't understand what could be the reasons for the court to not take cognizance of the report, he said, and urged the court to release the report at the earliest..

In his letter to the CJI, Ghanwat had said, "The report has addressed all apprehensions of the farmers. The committee was confident that the recommendations will pave the way to resolve the ongoing farmers' agitation."

While suspending the implementation of the three farm laws, the Supreme Court had constituted a Committee on 12th January 2021, to which Ghanwat was nominated as a member to represent the farming community.

CRIME REPORT

Absconder arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: In continuation to stringent actions against absconders, Bandipora Police on Wednesday arrested an absconder who was evading his arrest for a long time.

As per the details, Police received a non-bailable warrant from the Court of JMIC Bandipora against an accused namely Hilal Ahmad Ganie, son of Mohammad Akram, resident of Watrin Bandipora.

Accordingly, a special team led by SHO Police Station Bandipora under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Bandipora Shri Mohammad Idrees was constituted and arrested the accused person from Safa Kadal area of Srinagar. Subsequently, the arrested accused was produced before the Court of Law.

Police carries bung destruction drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HANDWARA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from the society, Handwara Police on Wednesday destroyed bung cultivation in Langate area.

As per the details, a police team from Police Police Langate along with Revenue Department have destroyed wild bung spread on large area in Langate area. General public of the area have appreciated the action of Police and have urged to continue such drive in nearby areas also.

DC Samba suspends erring officials; withholds salary of DMO

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba Anuradha Gupta on Wednesday suspended several officials and withheld salary of District Mineral officer Samba for unauthorised absence from duty.

As per an order issued by Deputy Commissioner, a Sr. Stenographer and Assistant

Other members of the committee are Ashok Gulati, former chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and Pramod Kumar Joshi from the International Food Policy Research Institute.

"As a member of the committee, especially representing the farmers' community, I am pained that the issue raised by the farmers aren't resolved and the agitation is continuing. I feel that the report has not been given any attention by the Hon'ble Supreme Court," Ghanwat wrote in his letter.

He said the apex court must release the panel's report for implementation of its recommendations for "peaceful resolution of the stalemate to the farmers' satisfaction at the earliest."

Asked if the views expressed in the letter written to CJI are supported by other members of the committee, Ghanwat said, "Actually, they support it. But they are not ready to say in writing. They are happy that I have raised the issue."

He said the panel's report is 100 per cent in favour of farmers and of the country, but replied in negative when asked if the committee has supported the protesting farmers' demand of repeal of the new laws.

"No. We don't support that," he said.

"There are many defects in the new laws. Our Shetkari Sanghatana also supported new farm laws but we had concerns too on some aspects. Many participants told the same during the deliberations," he said, adding everyone's views have been taken into consideration while finalising the report.

The main concern is that the minimum support price (MSP) will be wiped out, but that is not true. The new farm laws do not talk about MSP, but there was a lot of fear-mongering on this issue, he said.

Farmers have been protesting on various borders of the national capital for over nine months, demanding repeal of the three laws and also a legal guarantee for MSP.

On the possibility of implementing the new laws in a phase manner, Ghanwat said, "Of course, we can," but he declined to share if this was one of the recommendations of the committee.

Asked if he plans to write a similar letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and concerned ministers in the government, he said, "No. The mandate for us was given by the Supreme Court. We will tell the court only. There is no relation with the government on this matter. Neither the government appointed us nor we are answerable to it."

Ghanwat also condemned the lathicharge on protesting farmers in Karnal, Haryana and said, "It should not have happened. Their demand may not be right, but they have the right to air their views and protest."

Four-member panel...

Industrial Development Corporation (SICOP).

"Sanction is accorded to constitution of a Committee comprising of Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance department, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Secretary, Department Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for proposing roadmap for establishment of Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Development Corporation (JKIDC) as per provisions of J&K Development Act, 1970, along with merging/subsuming SIDCO and SICOP into it, as recommended by the in-house Committee of the Industries and Commerce Department," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioners/Secretary, General Administration Department.

"The Committee shall be serviced by Industries and Commerce Department," it added.

Centre to conduct...

in the diverse fields for improving the delivery mechanism and realisation of the goals of good governance, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

The workshop would encompass sessions on addressing governance challenges in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, CSMOP 2019, e-office and success stories in the UT administration, it said.

The workshop plans to provide a platform for information exchange and knowledge dissemination, the statement said.

The National Centre for Good Governance under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the government of India is organising the workshop in collaboration with the government of Ladakh at Leh on September 9-10, it said.

Approximately, 150 Ladakh officials are going to participate in the workshop, the statement said.

Sanjay Singh, Secretary DARPG and V Srinivas, Additional Secretary, DARPG among others will also address the inaugural session.

NC hits out...

had claimed that Abdullah had backed the Taliban government in Afghanistan, prompting the party to hit back, saying, "Backs? How? False attributing things to Dr Farooq Abdullah that he never said is deplorable.

"Twisting words and misrepresenting the intended meaning only exposes the so-called 'channels' that manufacture stories with mala fide intention".

Abdullah, during a brief interaction with media after paying respects at party's founder and his father Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's mausoleum at Naseem Bagh here on his 39th death anniversary, was asked a question regarding the Afghanistan situation and its impact on Jammu and Kashmir.

"Look Afghanistan is a different country and those who have come in power there have to take the responsibility of running the country. I hope that they will do justice to everyone and run a good government keeping in mind human rights and teachings of Islam. "At the same time, I would also like them to seek friendly relations with all countries," Abdullah said.

Senior party leaders wondered about the motive behind the malicious attempt by a section of the media, especially electronic media.

CS asks Mission...

energies of the youth through sports activities, counseling sessions, and linkages with gainful employment.

Mission youth has also finalized training curricula under various skill development initiatives, and will start training the candidates from next week.

The Mission aims to train 8,044 candidates aimed at enhancing their skill and employability as per the market requirements with a special focus on soft skills.

Mission Youth also plans to hold 5 mega-cultural exchange programmes to provide exposure visits to 1,000 identified youth in collaboration with various universities and educational institutions.

To cater to the socio-psychological stress prevalent amongst the distressed youth and victims of cross border shelling and insurgency, socio-psychological counseling, career planning and employment-related financial assistance is planned under Sahayat Scheme in a timely manner.

The Chief Secretary directed the CEO, Mission to take youth of the UT on exposure visits to different places in the country to help them appreciate and imbibe the syncretic traditions of the country.

Revenue Attorney of DC office Samba were suspended for unauthorized absence and dereliction of official duty.

Meanwhile, as per another order, the Deputy Commissioner withheld the salary of District Mineral Officer Samba for failing to implement directions issued for mining rate fixation, overcharges and illegal mining.

Teams of Police station Reasi conducted series of raids in Bhomag area of Police post Jyotipuram and arrested two bootleggers in two separate raids while distilling and smuggling illicit liquor in Bhomag.

In a surprise raid bootlegger Pritam Singh, son of Chait Ram, resident of Bladda Tehsil Bhomag got arrested from Bladda area while distilling illicit liquor. One litre Hooch recovered from his possession whereas distilling Unit alongwith 100 litres of Lahan destroyed on the spot. FIR no 174/2021 under section 48-A, E, 50 Excise Act is registered at Police Station Reasi & investigations initiated.

In a another raid team of police post Jyotipuram raided in Sersundwan area of Bhomag and arrested a bootlegger Kirpa Ram, son of Tegu, resident of Sersundwan and recovered 04 litres of Hooch from his possession. FIR no 175/2021 US 48-a Excise Act stands registered at Police Station Reasi and investigation set in.

Team of Police Station Arnas raided and apprehended one woman namely Sunita Devi, wife of Kaku Ram, resident of Kanthan alongwith 6.5 litres of Hooch which was being distilled by her. Distillation Unit alongwith Lahan destroyed on the spot. FIR No 108/2021 US 48-a, E, 50 Excise act got registered at Police Station Arnas and investigation set in.

District Police Reasi conducted major strike against drug peddlers & illicit liquor distillation as well as its smuggling and arrested 126 bootleggers in 110 case FIRs registered under Excise Act in last five months. Police destroyed more than 6000 litres of Lahan and seized more than 400 litres of Hooch, 620 Nips and around 100 bottles of illicit Liquor in last five months. 61 cases against 74 offenders got registered

He also directed linking 50,000 youth with gainful employment as per the defined targets during the current financial year. The Chief Secretary also reviewed schemes like AVSAR, Rise Together, Tourist Village Network, and Parvaaz under Mission Youth.

Armed forces have...

apex court's permission to place the details on record through affidavit and sought status quo in this year's exams as this needs procedure and infrastructural changes.

The top court said it has been periodically nudging the authorities to do it themselves and it believes that they are best suited to evolve the whole.

"The idea is when nothing happens, the court steps in. Let me assure you it's not a happy situation to step in and we would like the armed services to do it themselves. They are very respected forces of the country but on gender equality they have to do more and sometimes the resistance does not come out well," said the bench, also comprising Justice M M Sundresh.

"I am happy that the heads of armed forces have taken a positive decision. Put on record, we will take up the matter. We are happy with the stand. let us hear the matter next week. Reforms cannot happen in a day. We are also conscious of that," it said. The ASG told the bench that the thought was already there in their minds but it was only in the seedling stage.

The matter is listed after two weeks.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Kush Kalra raising the issue of exclusion of eligible and willing female candidates from joining the prestigious NDA solely on the ground of sex which allegedly is a violation of fundamental right of equality.

Parliamentary panel interacts...

sought the