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India, China begin...

overall situation in the region, people familiar with the development said. "It is an important forward movement towards bringing down the tension in the region," said an official on condition of anonymity.

The sources said India will keep pressing for the resolution of pending issues in the remaining friction points of Depsang and Demchok.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were important for the overall development of bilateral ties. The two militaries held 16 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

The disengagement in the Pangong Lake area had taken place in February last year while the withdrawal of troops and equipment in Patrolling Point 17 (A) in Gogra took place in August last year.

The 16th round of military talks was held 10 days after Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bali.

At the one-hour meeting on the sidelines of a conclave of foreign ministers of the G20 nations, Jaishankar conveyed to Wang the need for early resolution of all the outstanding issues in Eastern Ladakh.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector:

NIA Court grants...

of police Mohammad Ayoub Pandit.

Pandit was lynched by a mob on June 22, 2017 outside Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta area of the city when he was on duty in civvies during the Shab-e-Qadr that year.

"... In the present case after perusing the material available on record including the statement of the witnesses recorded during trial, there are no reasonable grounds believing that accused persons or applicants are guilty of an offense as alleged in the charge sheet," the judge said in his 81-page order.

The court said there was neither direct no indirect evidence on record to link the accused with the crime.

There is neither any direct nor any substantial evidence on the record which could connect the accused or applicants with the alleged crime. So, in absence of ocular as well as substantial evidence on the record, the grounds taken by the learned counsel carry weight, it said.

Artist dies on...

Bishnah tehil on Tuesday night, sources said.

During the dancing performance, he was rolling on the stage floor amid applause from the crowd but could not get up, they said.

As he failed to get up despite struggle, the actor performing role of Lord Shiva and some people rushed to the stage and shifted him to hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The artist's death was caught live on camera by several watchers and these videos went viral on social media.

Corruption by public...

on the ground that what the victims had with the accused was only a money dispute and that the same had been settled out of court.

He contended that due to political rivalry between the two groups, his complaint got converted into a more serious issue.

The victims, who originally claimed to have paid money for procuring employment, also filed individual affidavits supporting the accused.

When the petition for quashing came up for hearing, the counsel appearing for the state government made a submission that the incident took place in the year 2014 and that a compromise was reached between the accused and the victims the same year. The high court took note of the submissions and quashed the criminal complaint.

The top court said courts should be slow to exercise their jurisdiction to quash criminal proceedings on the basis of settlement reached between the parties when the offences are capable of having an impact not merely on the complainant and the accused but also on others.

The apex court said it cannot shy away from the fact that candidates, who are selected and appointed to posts in the Government/public corporations by adopting corrupt practices, are eventually called upon to render public service.

"It is needless to say that the quality of public service rendered by such persons will be inversely proportionate to the corrupt practices adopted by them.

"Therefore, the public, who are recipients of these services, also become victims, though indirectly, because the consequences of such appointments get reflected sooner or later in the work performed by the appointees. Hence, to say that the appellants have no locus standi is to deny the existence of what is obvious," the bench said while restoring the criminal complaint.

LG e-inaugurates 18...

in the projects being executed under Srinagar Smart City Ltd.

Earlier, the Lt Governor e-inaugurated 18 development projects worth Rs 65.15 cr of District Srinagar and laid foundation stone of Animal Birth Control and Anti

Rabies Vaccination Centre, Chattarhama.

The Lt Governor also sought the details of disbursement of benefits to eligible beneficiaries under different public welfare and Social Security schemes by the concerned departments. He issued explicit directions to officials for saturating the coverage under welfare schemes. He further instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar for conducting extensive IEC activities for coverage of left out beneficiaries.

Reviewing the status of different schemes of the Agriculture sector, the Lt Governor instructed the concerned officials to ensure the benefits of all the UT and central government schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries.

The Lt Governor also took stock of the status of daily milk production and processing being done in Srinagar, besides the efforts made by the concerned department towards tackling the Lumpy Skin disease in cattle. It was informed that only 38 cases have been reported in 18 days and vaccination of the cattle is going on with alacrity.

Queen Elizabeth II...

Charles will lead the country in mourning as the new King and Head of State for 14 Commonwealth realms. Charles and the Queen's close family members travelled to Balmoral, near Aberdeen, after doctors placed the Queen under medical supervision. Her grandson, Prince William, is also there, with his brother, Prince Harry, on his way. The Queen's daughter, Princess Anne, was already by her side at the Scottish castle and her other children Prince Andrew and Prince Edward joined later. Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex who were in London for a charity event, also rushed to Harry's grandmother's summer residence. William's wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, has remained in Windsor as their children Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis started their first full day at a new school there earlier on Thursday.

The 96-year-old monarch has been suffering from age-related mobility issues and had cut down her travels, including appointing new Prime Minister Liz Truss in Scotland earlier this week.

Rajpath symbolised India's...

slavery, has been consigned to history and erased forever, Modi said, asserting that a new history has taken birth in Kartavya Path and this along with Netaji's statue will now guide and inspire the country.

"People will see the India of the future in them and its energy will instill them with a new vision for a great India," he said.

He also said that the changes undertaken by his government are not just limited to symbols but are now part of policies.

This is neither the beginning nor the end, Modi said of efforts towards removal of symbols of "slavery", adding that it is a relentless march of resolve with the goal of the freedom of one's mind. "Both thinking and behaviour of the countrymen are getting freed from the mentality of slavery."

Noting that Rajpath was also known as Kingsway earlier, he said it was appropriate for the British Raj when India was under its rule. Its spirit as well as architecture symbolised our slavery and now both have been changed, he said following the inauguration of the renovated central vista avenue.

"Kartavya Path will now remind all that we need to keep the nation first. When people of the country come here, the statue of Netaji, the National War Memorial will inspire them so much and fill them with their sense of duties," he said.

The revamped stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate is estimated to have cost around Rs 477 crore.

This is an example of developing our cultural infrastructure, Modi said and cited the Statue of Unity dedicated to Sardar Patel and National War Memorial as other such examples.

The inauguration of Kartavya Path and installation of Bose's 28-ft-tall statue at the canopy where a statue of King George V stood till 1968 were not the the first example of the country getting rid of its colonial mindset, he said, adding that his government has taken steps like renaming Race Course Road as Lok Kalyan Marg, where the prime minister's residence is located, and repealing outdated laws.

The date and timing of Union budget presentation has been changed and a new education policy brought in, he said, adding this spirit is guiding his government's policies.

"India has now set its own ideals, pledges and goals. Today, our paths and symbols are ours own," the prime minister said.

In this Amrit Mahotsav, the country has now got new inspiration and new energy, he said.

The revamped stretch is part of the Modi government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project.

Modi also thanked workers involved in the development of Kartavya Path and said that they not only built it but also showed the others way of 'kartavya' (duty). They will be his guests for the Republic Day parade on January 26, he said.

Workers involved in constructing the new parliament building will have a special gallery dedicated to them, Modi said.

As India celebrates 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', it is our resolve to have a feeling of pride in our traditional heritage and put the country on the path to unstoppable development, he said.

Mega Job Fair...

Notably, more than 3000 candidates participated in the Mega Job Fair and also some reputed organisations like LIC, Bajaj, Mahindra Motors, SBI among other companies projected job openings of around 1200 and selected prospective candidates for further training/selection.

After inauguration of the Job Fair, the Commissioner Secretary interacted with representatives of several local Trade Associations like Jammu Chamber of

Commerce, President Warehouse Association, Bari Brahamna Traders Association, General Manager IOCL, JK Head of HCL, LIC UT Head as well as few other national and international companies. During interaction the representative of associations highlighted skill/training required for accommodating more and more candidates in different industrial centres within the UT. They also highlighted major problems being faced by them while searching and recruiting potential/eligible candidates.

Sarita Chauhan urged the participating and potential recruiters to register on the online portal jakemp.nic.in and informed them that the portal has also been integrated with NCS portal which has 1.92 lakh employers onboard. She highlighted that more than 50 thousand unemployed youth from J&K have already registered at the platform.

The Commissioner Secretary underlined that the platform would serve as an excellent platform for introducing skilled unemployed youth of J&K with recruiters.

Director Employment, J&K informed that the job fair will be organized regularly and will be held in all districts besides the facilities for counselling and interaction with the companies will be carried on at the District Employment Centres for the youth.

No decision yet...

Examination (JEE) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) will be merged with the CUET in future.

"Merger of NEET and JEE with CUET is an idea we are floating, so that there is wider discussion among stakeholders, there is no formal decision that we have taken on this...nothing will be imposed on students from the top that from next year there will be a joint exam," Kumar said.

The UGC chief made the comments at a round table on "Enhancing Competitiveness and Quality Revolution in Indian Higher Education". The event was organised by the apex industry body, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

"Even if a decision is taken, it should not affect the current students who are in classes 11 and 12. We need to give them sufficient time, it will not be implemented in next two years at least. It will be implemented only after enough consultations have been done and feedback has been taken into account," he added.

The debut edition of CUET-UG began in July and has been marred with glitches prompting the National Testing Agency (NTA) to cancel the exams at multiple centres.

With 14.9 lakh registrations, the CUET, the common gateway for undergraduate admissions in all central universities, is now the second biggest entrance exam in the country, surpassing JEE-Main's average registration of nine lakh. NEET-UG is the biggest entrance test in India with an average of 18 lakh registrations.

While JEE-Mains is a Computer-Based Test (CBT) conducted twice a year, NEET is conducted in pen-and-paper mode.

Kumar said that UGC has tied up with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to ensure that students from remotest areas can have access to online education facilities.

"We are working on a multi-dimensional way to make sure that education reaches to the last student in the most remote area. So, we have signed up with MeitY as they have a large number of common service centres. Any student can walk into those centres, pay a nominal monthly fee, and access digital universities," he said .

The UGC chief also addressed numerous queries from the vice-chancellors present at the round table.

"Nearly 550 universities have registered at the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) for higher credits. Thousands of students taking online courses are benefiting in terms of transferring the credits to the host university where they are studying online," he said.

"Currently, students can take up to 40 per cent of the credit requirements in a programme, but once we announce online regulations and establish the digital university, there is going to be an exponential growth of online education," he added.

Kumar informed that the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) is going to be enhanced soon.

"It is going to be a comprehensive document. It will become the foundation of all kinds of education with the integration of three pillars - school education, skill education and national higher education," he said.

Responding to question on deemed-to-be universities, Kumar said, There are around 126 deemed universities in India and we are already working on the deemed-to-be universities regulations. Removing the tag deemed-to-be' requires an amendment at UGC part, but it will surely happen, he said.

"hub of terrorists" like Burhan Wani once.

He said there was increased involved of cadets in Anantnag and also in North Kashmir. "I find the youth of this area very enthusiastic to join the NCC and become part of it", he said. Asked about the message of NCC youth to Pakistan, he said NCC cadets only give one message - nation first.

He said that he is hear to oversee the training of cadets of Ladakh and J&K Union Territories where 27,000 cadets are getting training at 460 institutions.

Asserting that Kashmiri youth were always with NCC, he said once they wear the uniform - it is nation first for them.

Rise in NCC...

Key endeavours like New Film Policy, developing better facilities are aimed at transforming J&K into the most preferred film shooting destination, he added.

Actor Sanjay Khan...

Lt Governor observed that the UT Government is taking effective measures to create a vibrant film ecosystem to bring back the golden era of filmmaking in J&K.

JKEEGA urges LG, Prpl Secy PDD to appoint PDD technocrats as MDs of Corporations

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) held a meeting under the chairmanship of Sachin Tiekoo, President, which was attended by Executive Council Members including Ashok Kumar Dubey, Rajeshwar Jamwal, Sunil Gupta, Jahangir Ahmed, Gulshan Bhagat, Yash Paul, Vishal Singh Chib, Ankush Sharma, Rohit Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Vijay Sharma, Parshotam Lal Sharma and Vipul Sharma. Peerazada Hidayatullah also joined the meeting online from Srinagar.

67 new COVID-19 cases in J&K

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir registered 67 fresh COVID-19 cases and a fatality due to the disease on Thursday, taking the infection tally to 4,78,562 and the death toll to 4,784 in the Union Territory, officials said here.

While 10 cases were reported from Jammu division, 57new infections were registered in Kashmir division, they said.

The number of active coronavirus cases stands at 642 in Jammu and Kashmir, while the recovery count has reached 4,73,136, the officials said.

Join hands for safeguarding existence, safety & security: KPC to KPs

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a meeting of Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) held in Jammu on Thursday, several issues and problems faced by Kashmiri Pandit community from long were discussed in detail. The participants expressed dismay for marginalizing, ignoring and taking KPs for granted just for their overwhelming faith in the system. Kundan Kashmiri, President KPC stated that previous and present Governments have failed to fulfill demands of KPs in respect of rehabilitation, safety, security, property, temples, human rights, employment, development or share in political or administrative fields as well as wel-

fare schemes. He further asked all members of the community to join hands for safeguarding existence, safety and security of the community, failing which it would be too late. This meeting reiterated its demand for appointing a special Judicial Commission of Inquiry (COI) headed by a retired judge of Supreme Court to investigate circumstances and scale of atrocities faced by Kashmiri Pandits and Hindu genocide besides publishing a white paper; to promote and preserve indigenous Kashmiri Hindu culture along with time-bound steps to restore all Hindu shrines and temples desecrated in Valley.

Northern Army Commander reviews Op preparedness in Rajouri

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday visited forward areas in Rajouri and reviewed operational preparedness, officials said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi visited Rajouri sector and interacted with top army officers on security situation and operational preparedness in the areas along the Line of Control (LoC), they said.

He expressed confidence over the operational readiness and strong anti-infiltration grid adopted by troops.

Earthquake of 3.5 magnitude hits Katra in J&K

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A low-intensity earthquake of magnitude 3.5 hit Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

No casualty or damage to property was reported, they said.

The quake struck Katra, which houses the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi in Trikuta hills, at 7.52 am, officials said.

The epicentre was at a latitude of 33.14 degrees north and longitude of 75.58 degrees east at a depth of 10 km.

Last month, 13 earthquakes of low-intensity had hit Doda, Reasi, Kishtwar and Udhampur districts of Jammu region.

CRIME REPORT

Narco-smuggler nabbed with heroin



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MENDHAR: Continuing drive against drug peddlers, Mendhar Police arrested a narcotic smuggler namely Aijaz Ahmed alias Alias Anna, son of Mumtaz Hussain, resident of Latong, Surankote and recovered 6 gm heroin like substance from him. Accordingly, FIR No. 201/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Mendhar and investigation started. The recovery was made by PSI Sunil Sharma and Insp Niaz Ahmed SHO Mendhar under supervision of SDPO Mendhar Sheezan Bhat and overall supervision of SSP Poonch Rohit Baskotra.

Woman among two nabbed with illicit liquor, cannabis destroyed

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: Police under the supervision of SSP Reasi Amit Gupta nabbed two persons including a woman and recovered illicit liquor & cannabis from their possession.

As per details, a team from Police Post Shiv Khori led by ASI Mangal Singh laid a surprise Naka near Ram Mandir area of Shiv Khori Ransoo and intercepted an illicit liquor smuggler, later identified as Kheri Devi, wife of Krishan Singh, resident of Sungar, Tehsil Pouni, District Reasi. During checking, 1.5 ltrs illicit (Desi) liquor was recovered from her possession. She was arrested and FIR No. 18/2022 under sections 48 (A) of Exeise Act was registered at Police Station Ransoo.

Meanwhile, a team of Police Station Arnas led by Insp Jeet Singh destroyed wild Bhang in Arnas area of District Reasi.

On a specific information, a party of Police Check Post Dharnari intercepted Lal Singh, son of Sant Ram, resident of Pattian Teh Thuroo and recovered 2 ltrs of illicit (Desi) liquor from his possession. FIR No 129/22 under section 48(A) Exeise Act was registered against him at Police Station Arnas.

2 snatchers nabbed, 19 stolen mobiles recovered

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

R S PURA: Police on Thursday nabbed two mobile snatchers and recovered 19 stolen mobiles from their possession.

As per details, a complaint was lodged by one Parveen Kumar, son of Sham Lal, resident of Ward-8, R S Pura stating therein that when he was coming from Jammu towards R S Pura, some unknown person snatched his mobile phone A-31 Samsung valuing approximately Rs 15,000. Accordingly, FIR No 175/22 under sections 341/382 of IPC was registered at Police Station R S Pura.

After this, special teams from Police Station R S Pura under supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh were constituted.

A team led by SHO R S Pura Insp Pawan Kumar, after putting in strenuous efforts, rounded up two suspects namely Sunny Kumar, son of Krishan Lal and Mahinder Singh, son of Karnail Singh, both residents of R S Pura.

During intensive questioning, accused confessed their involvement in crime and on their disclosure stolen mobile phone along with 19 other stolen phones were recovered.

Three missing girls traced, reunited with families

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Police on Thursday traced three missing girls and reunited them with families.

As per details, three different complaints were lodged at different Police stations/Police Posts regarding missing of three girls from their respective homes. In this regard, three different missing reports i.e., a missing report dated September 2 was registered at Police Station Arnia and two different missing reports were registered at Police Post Phallain Mandal.

After this, police teams of Police Station Arnia and Police Post Phallain Mandal were constituted.

The teams led by SHO Police Station Arnia Insp Sumit Sharma assisted by PSI Mohd Ilyas and another team led by Incharge Police Post Phallain Mandal PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal, after putting in hectic efforts, finally traced all missing girls.

Subsequently families of traced girls were informed and all the three traced girls were handed over to their respective family members after completing all legal formalities.