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Zero tolerance for...

of learning for out-of-school children.

The Lt Governor also congratulated the innovative farmers including Baldev Raj, Manzoor Ahmed and Masrat Jan for their unwavering determination and continued pursuit of excellence in agriculture and allied sector.

During this month's edition, the Lt Governor shared the inspirational success stories of the women and young entrepreneurs of the UT.

New-Age women entrepreneurs like Reetika Mahajan from Udampur are leading the socio-economic growth of J&K UT, the Lt Governor said.

Gulshan Banoo of Hidyal village in Kishtwar has become a beacon of change in her district. Her entrepreneurial venture is a testament to talent, passion, and sheer determination, he added.

The Lt Governor also appreciated the efforts of Aamir Lone of Khadinayer, Baramulla and Basit Hussain of Srinagar for venturing into developing greenhouse projects and beekeeping and establishing a Spice unit.

Youth have instinctive attraction to big dreams and determination to build a brighter future, the Lt Governor said. He mentioned about Bandipora's Mohammad Hussain who quit his MNC job in the quest for new discovery and dreams and started his own business venture in Sheep Farming.

The Lt Governor voiced the suggestions received from Som Datt Sharma from Jammu, Doda's Rozy Bano, Faizan Ul Shafi regarding promotion of regional languages in the UT, scaling up business units under self-help groups run by Rural Livelihood Mission and promotion of Agri-Tourism for offbeat destinations.

He also shared the inputs from Afzal Siddiqui from Srinagar, Jammu's Danish Samnotra and Suheeb Ahmed from Shopian on promotion of tourism as a career option for youth.

Parliament's session set...

on the listed agenda is a special discussion on Parliament's journey of 75 years starting from the "Samvidhan Sabha" (Constituent Assembly).

The government enjoys the prerogative of tabling in Parliament some new legislation or other items that might not have been part of the listed agenda.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had recently given vent to the sense in the opposition about the session, saying the government could be having some "legislative grenades" up its sleeve.

Commenting on the listed agenda, he had said it "is much ado about nothing" and all this could have waited till the Winter session in November.

The government has also listed the bill on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners to be taken up for consideration and passage during the session.

The bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha during the last Monsoon session and has drawn protests from the opposition as it seeks to put service conditions of the chief election commissioner and two election commissioners on par with the cabinet secretary and not a Supreme Court judge, as is the case now.

This is being seen as a downgrade in their stature.

Though there is no official word on any probable new legislation, there has been a view, including in the BJP circles, that a bill to ensure quota for women in elected legislatures like Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

That Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often highlighted, including in the recent G20 Summit, the growing role of women in different fields in the country has added to the buzz about such a bill.

What has added to the anticipation around the session is Parliament's expected shift to the new building which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi on May 28.

Various departments of parliamentary staff are all set to don new uniforms in a signal from the government that the shift to the new building is likely to be marked with a fresh start in more ways than one.

The successful G20 Summit in the national capital under India's presidency has added to Modi's appeal and is set to be a major talking point of the treasury benches during the session.

The new dress code with floral motif for a section of staff has already kicked up a political row, with the Congress dubbing it as a "cheap" tactic to promote the ruling party's poll symbol - the lotus flower.

While announcing the session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi had described it as "special session". But the government had later made it clear that it was a regular session, 13th session of the present Lok Sabha and 261st session of Rajya Sabha.

Usually, Budget, Monsoon and Winter sessions of Parliament are held every year. The Monsoon session was held in July-August while the Winter session is due in November-December.

The Budget session has a fixed time of commencement from January end of every year.

The gap between the two sessions cannot be more than six months.

As of now, the government has listed a special discussion on Parliament's journey of 75 years starting from the Samvidhan Sabha on the first day of the session.

Besides the discussion on "Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha - Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings" scheduled for September 18, the other listed business for Lok Sabha includes 'The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023' and 'The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023', already passed by Rajya Sabha on 3 August 2023.

Besides, 'The Post Office Bill, 2023' has also been listed in the Lok Sabha business, according to an official bulletin. The bill was earlier introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10 August 2023.

The list of business is tentative and more items can be added.

On August 31, Joshi, while announcing the "special session" of Parliament for five days from September 18, did not spell out any specific agenda for it. "Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to having fruitful discussions and debate in Parliament," Joshi had posted on X.

Kokernag operation enters...

with senior police and Army officers. He also interacted with troops deployed in the operation, they added.

The police believe two to three terrorists are trapped in the forest area as the forces maintained a tight cordon.

Additional Director General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar late Friday night said the operation was launched on the basis of specific input and claimed "two to three trapped terrorists will be neutralised."

Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer, 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhonchak, Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Humayun Bhat and a soldier were killed by the terrorists on Wednesday.

'Anti-GPS jamming...

system, officials said. Colonel (Retd) Alex said the second project nearing completion is the IFF device, which will help the Army in detecting its own forces in the battlefield during counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism operations.

"It works on RF (Radio Frequency) mesh. It operates in any condition whether it is day or night, and even in bad weather or low visibility. We can detect our troops in all such situations," he said.

Designed for the integrated and complex battlefield, the IFF device identifies the friendly forces through the use of GPS data, sensors and RF communications, the officials said.

It is aimed to identify its own forces in conventional trans International Border (IB), Line of Control (LoC) operations and in counter terrorism operations during raids, patrols, ambushes and specialized operations, they added.

The officials said the IFF device unit can be mounted or attached to personnel, vehicles, tanks, drones and helicopters.

Colonel (Retd) Alex said the CST designs and develops communication and surveillance equipment for the forces.

"We have been supplying them with equipment since 2018," he added.

We have full...

our Army, police and CAPFs. Every drop of blood of our soldiers, innocent civilians will be avenged. Terrorists and their sympathizers will have to pay a very heavy price," the Lt Governor said.

Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister of Maharashtra in his address threw light on the strong bond shared between Jammu Kashmir and Maharashtra.

India is a living embodiment of Unity in Diversity. I assure every support to the people of the UT of J&K from Maharashtra Government, he said. He also expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for facilitating the establishment of Maharashtra Bhawan in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of Sarhad Foundation to strengthen people-to-people connect between J&K and other parts of the country.

"Unity in Diversity is our strength. It is deeply rooted in the core values of our great civilization. We have age old tradition of peaceful co-existence and India is home to almost all the religions and sects known to mankind and it has enriched our spiritual and cultural diversity over the years," the Lt Governor said.

Our ancestors gave the ideals of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'- World is one family.

Prime Minister has realized this timeless wisdom by bringing all the powerful nations together and ensuring consensus on all issues concerning the world today, he said.

From Himalayas to Sahyadri, from Shivalik to Satpura, Jammu Kashmir and Maharashtra are deeply connected with each other. We must dedicate ourselves to establish an egalitarian society and contribute in realizing the vision of Viskit Bharat, he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor highlighted the reforms introduced by the Prime Minister to transform the lives of the people of the country.

Lt Governor assured the Chief Minister of Maharashtra that the UT government will provide the land for establishing Maharashtra Bhawan in J&K.

A two-minute silence was observed in the memory of bravehearts of police and army martyred in Anantnag encounter.

A souvenir and monogram of the Maharashtra-Jammu Kashmir Friendship chapter were also unveiled on the occasion. Cultural performances and songs celebrating the unity in diversity were presented by artists.

Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, KVIB; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sanjay Nahar Founder Sarhad; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration and people in large number were present.

Ladakh saw unbelievable...

husbandry sectors which are making progress, he said.

Mishra said the people of Ladakh are coming forward in setting up startups while infrastructures such as roads, bridges, tunnels, helipads and airports are being developed at a rapid speed.

This has been possible only after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019 when Ladakh was carved out of Jammu and Kashmir and became a Union Territory on October 31 of that year, he said.

Before that, there were agitations with people demanding that Ladakh be declared a Union Territory. It was because "people were neglected and out on a limb", the L-G claimed, adding funds were not available and development was the least of priorities.

The army veteran said he has got his priorities straight.

The first priority is to make sure that the coming generations do not face water problems, Mishra said. "Because we live on hills, water (is available) down below... I want to make sure that Ladakh never faces water problems."

He said the next priority is job creation for the people of Ladakh, including startups.

"I have got almost 600 vacancies released in police and civil services and the process is going on, while there is a case pending in the Supreme Court related to 800 vacancies.

"The way Ladakh is progressing and the way the people are being taken care of... the changes are unbelievable and for the better," the L-G said.

Referring to Ladakh as being part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir before the abrogation of Article 370, Mishra said earlier the people of the region had no say.

"There was one hill council and that did not have much power. Now we have got two councils (one each in Leh and Kargil districts). These two councils are fully functional. We are empowering them," he said.

Mishra said he had asked the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which deals with all high-altitude inventions and initiatives, to visit every farmer and share their technology and initiatives with them.

"Many entrepreneurs have come up and they are producing in the field of agriculture and horticulture things which have never happened," he said.

The L-G said the administration has started the apricot blossom festival which is attracting foreign tourists. "Tourism is a very high-edge matter in Ladakh. We have a population of 2.75 lakh and last year we had 5.31 lakh tourists. You can well imagine how fast we are moving forward."

The Lt Governor said Ladakh has a very bright future as a Union Territory.

"Given the topography, Leh itself is at 11,500 feet altitude and the other places which are equally high, and given the climate, limited population, dispersion and also the local economy, I think the best thing and the way for Ladakh is to be a union territory.

"The way the progress is happening, Ladakh has a very bright future. I am sure that within the next couple of years, it will be the most developed Union Territory in India. I aim to have a Ladakh that is corruption-free and delay-free and I am working on that," he said.

Opposition alliance following...

The silence of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi over all such disruptive issues shows that the Congress has given its consent to the policy of appeasement and social disruption, Chugh said.

All-party meeting...

Minister Pralhad Joshi represented the government in the meeting.

Former prime minister and JD(S) leader H D Deve Gowda, DMK's Kanimozhi, TDP's Ram Mohan Naidu, TMC's Derek O'Brien, AAP's Sanjay Singh, BJD's Sasmit Patra, BRS' K Keshava Rao, YSR Congress Party's V Vijayasai Reddy, RJD's Manoj Jha and JD(U)'s Anil Hegde and SP's Ram Gopal Yadav were also among those who attended the meeting.

Modi launches PM...

purchase Made In India toolkits from only those shops which are GST-registered.

Stressing on the government's vision of 'Vocal for Local', he also asked people to purchase local products during the forthcoming festivals, including Ganesh Chaturthi, Dhanteras and Diwali.

Modi further said that conference tourism, estimated at Rs 25 lakh crore, presents a huge opportunity for India.

He said Yashobhoomi has the complete ecosystem for conferences and organising exhibitions and will provide job opportunities to several lakh people.

"Through 'Yashobhoomi' convention centre alone, lakhs of youth are expected to get employment opportunities," said the prime minister.

Yashobhoomi will also be connected to Delhi Airport Metro Express line with the inauguration of the new metro station 'Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25'.

Delhi Metro will also increase the operational speed of Metro trains on Airport Express Line from 90 to 120 kilometre per hour reducing the travel time. The total journey from 'New Delhi' to 'Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25' will take about 21 minutes.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the prime minister had last month approved the new Central Sector Scheme 'PM Vishwakarma' with a financial outlay of Rs 13,000 crore for a period of five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).

Under PM Vishwakarma scheme, artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, credit support up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5 per cent.

The scheme will further provide skill upgradation, toolkit incentive, incentive for digital transactions and marketing support.

Artisan or craftsmen working with hands and tools and engaged in one of the 18 family-based traditional trades are eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme.

These trades include carpenter; boat maker; armourer; blacksmith; hammer and toolkit maker; locksmith; goldsmith; potter; sculptor (moortikar; stone carver), stone breaker; cobbler; mason; basket/mat/broom maker/coir weaver; doll & toy maker (traditional); barber; garland maker; washermen; tailor; and fishing net maker.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme...

they are integrated with national and global value chains, he added.

Traditionally, Vishwakarmas are considered as the drivers of growth. They are the personification of artistic power, lord of the arts, creator of diverse crafts and builders of enterprises. Unfortunately, the discriminatory system in J&K existed here for decades has imprisoned the aspirations of communities engaged in traditional skills, the Lt Governor said.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister, we are working with the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas" to empower poor, deprived sections of society. I am confident 'PM Vishwakarma Scheme' will bring revolutionary transformation in the lives of our Vishwakarmas," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the key initiatives taken by the UT Administration for the socio-economic development of the families engaged in traditional skills and handicrafts and handloom sectors.

Handloom and Handicrafts are emerging as two very important pillars of our economy. The Government has recognized more than 29 other crafts and brought them under the ambit of handicrafts and handloom sector. With the continuous support and guidance from the Prime Minister, we have been successful in doubling the exports of handicrafts and handloom, he said.

The Lt Governor also called upon all the sections of society to identify and isolate the elements trying to disrupt peace and development.

Conflict profiteers have constructed their houses in foreign countries, sent their children abroad for studies and made the poor suffer. We have decimated that ecosystem and dismantled the network of such conflict profiteers. We have overcome

many challenges in the last three years to bring peace and prosperity in the life of the common man, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the efforts to bring transparency and accountability in the governance process.

Those who never allowed talent, merit and hard work to flourish, now have problem with the transparent, honest and accountable system. I want to tell them that under the leadership of Prime Minister, rights of people will always be safeguarded, only merit will be promoted and ecosystem of good governance and transparency will be further strengthened, he said.

Kaushal Kishore, Union Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs called for connecting maximum traditional artists and craftspeople with the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

The Union MoS commended the progress registered by Jammu Kashmir under various schemes and also assured all support and assistance to the women folks in establishing industrial units.

Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, a tailor from Srinagar received Vishwakarma ID Card and Certificate from Prime Minister in Delhi. He is an expert in traditional Pheran. He has been working since last 40 years with single-minded pursuit of excellence in this traditional art.

PM Vishwakarma will be fully funded by the Union Government with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore.

Under the scheme, the Vishwakarmas will be registered free of charge through Common Services Centres using biometric based PM Vishwakarma portal. They will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, skill upgradation involving basic and advanced training, toolkit incentive of Rs 15,000, collateral-free credit support up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5%, incentive for digital transactions and marketing support.

The Scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice and cover the eighteen traditional crafts including Carpenter, Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith, Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Sculptor, Stonebreaker, Cobbler (Shoemith/ Footwear artisan), Mason (Rajmistri), Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional), Barber, Garland maker, Washerman, Tailor and Fishing Net Maker.

Aftab Malik, Chairman, District Development Council Srinagar; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner/Secretary Science & Technology; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce; R K Dhiman, ADG,CPWD, HoDs, Political leaders, officers of UT administration, large number of craftspeople and artisans were present at the UT level function.

36 vehicles seized...

Nihalpora Pattan, Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Abdullah Bhat resident of Wanigan Katteri & Intiyaz Ahmad Miyan son of Mohd Afzal Miyan resident of Burran Pataan.

Similarly, a police party assisted by SHO PS Kunzer seized 3 vehicles (tractors) and arrested 3 drivers for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Bongam Kunzer. They have been identified as Mohd Rafeeq Khanday son of Gh Mohd Khanday, Irshad Ahmad Mir son of Gh Hassan Mir & Irfan Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohi Din Dar all residents Of Harduaboora.

Moreover, a police party assisted by Incharge PP Kungamdara seized 2 vehicles (1 tipper & 1 excavator) and arrested 2 drivers for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Tapper. They have been identified as Khurshed Ahmad Wani son of Ah Ahad Wani resident of Tapper Payeen & Dilshaan Ahmad Khan son of Shams Din Khan resident of Ramban.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective Police Station and investigations have been initiated.

Meanwhile, in a successful joint operation conducted by the Police and Mining Department, 20 vehicles involved in the illegal transportation and extraction of minor minerals were seized/fined in Poonch District.

The operation, carried out under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary and in the presence of DMO Poonch, Javed Iqbal, aimed to curb the unlawful extraction and transportation of minor minerals, which poses a threat to the environment and results in revenue loss for the government.

One heavy excavator was seized at Dingla and handed over to Local public representative till higher authorities impose fine, while Two paths used for illegal mining were dismantled in Poonch.

In addition to this, the joint operation, led by the police party and Mining Department, resulted in the seizure of one JCB and three tractors at Jhullass and one JCB, one Dumper and three tractors at Khari, two tractors at seri khawaja, one dumper, five Tippers and two tractors at surankote.

The coordinated efforts of the teams ensured the effective enforcement of the law and sent a strong message against illegal activities related to minor mineral transportation and extraction.

Illegal mining and transportation of minor minerals can cause significant environmental degradation, leading to long-term consequences for the ecosystem. Moreover, such activities result in substantial revenue loss for the government, hampering development initiatives and public welfare programs.

DMO Poonch, Javed Iqbal, highlighted the significance of strict enforcement measures to deter individuals involved in illegal activities related to minor minerals. He urged the public to report any suspicious activities to the authorities, ensuring the protection of the environment, save loss to the precious lives, request to vehicles owners to take material from legal Mining blocks and the sustainable utilization of mineral resources.

Jammu also seized 3 vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicles include One tractor trolley bearing Chassis no. FZZZDF55085253, by Miran Sahib Police; Two tractor trollies without Registration Nos by Jourian Police.

The recoveries were made by SHO PS Miran Sahib Insnr Bopinder Singh and I/C PP Jourian PSI Karnail Singh in their respective jurisdictions.

Bishnah murder case solved; Sarpanch among four arrested, weapons recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: Police on Thursday solved murder case at Bishnah with the arrest of four accused persons.

As per details, murder case mystery of Sunny Saansiya son of Baldev Raj resident of Kothey Bulanday, Chorli, Bishnah, who was attacked by some unknown persons on September 14, 2023 at his residence and he succumbed to his injuries, when he was taken to the hospital, has been solved by Police Station Bishnah Jammu. A case FIR under relevant sections was registered at Police Station Bishnah and investigation started.

After which a team of Police Station Bishnah led by SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna assisted by SHO Police Station Bishnah Insnr Vikram Sharma did strenuous efforts and with the help of CCTV



Accused persons in police custody at Bishnah.

footages of the area and connecting various leads rounded up a suspected person. During questioning accused namely Sukhdev Singh alias Makhana, resident of Palli Village, Bari Brahmana, Distt. Samba admitted to the commission of this heinous crime and he also disclosed the involvement of others who had provided the logistics support, and concealed the vehicles and weapons (Tokes, and Pistol) used in the commission of offence. Further on his disclosure three more accused namely Dushant Kumar son of Jagjeevan Sharma resident of Palli; Sarpanch Yuvraj Singh son of Chain Singh resident of Kallana, Arnia Jammu and Nasir Khan son of Babble resident of Badhar Khan, Bishnah Jammu were also arrested.

It is pertinent to mention that the accused namely Sukhdev Singh alias Makhana, resident of Palli Village, Bari Brahmana, Distt. Samba also confessed his involvement in other crimes also. Moreover the vehicle (motorecycle) that was used after the commission of offence for fleeing from the scene of crime was also recovered that had been thrown in an irrigation canal.

The overall arrests and recoveries were made under the supervision of SP Hqrs Ramnish Gupta.

Further investigation of the case is going on and more arrests are likely to be made in the above case.