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Modi to unveil...

underway. By evening, all arrangements should be done," he said. At Lalita Ghat, labourers were busy working on an earthen ramp that has been built to facilitate the movement of the prime minister from the cruise jetty to the starting point of the corridor; one of the dream projects of Modi. Over 3,000 seers, people associated with different religious mutts, artistes and other noted personalities are to assemble at the venue on December 13 to witness the inauguration.

The programme will last about 2-3 hours. "In the evening, the PM will take part in an informal 'baithak' with CMs and deputy CMs on the river cruise. Being the MP from Varanasi, he had expressed his desire to showcase the grandeur of Kashi, situated on the banks of the river; to the chief ministers. Also, from his cruise, PM will witness Ganga 'aarti' and grand festivities on the ghats, which will culminate with fireworks and laser show," the DM said.

Sharma said ghats are being decorated and the plan is to light up "five lakh diyas" on the ghats and observe the occasion on a scale of 'Dev Deepavali'.

The prime minister will stay at the guest house on the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) campus after finishing his engagements on the day one of his visit.

"Next day, he will take part in a formal meeting with chief ministers and other events, and later in the day will participate in an annual event of Swarved Mandir in Umraha," he said, adding his two-day engagement will end at around 5 pm on Tuesday.

After laying the foundation stone of the corridor, Modi had said the project would be a model for "protection and preservation" of temples and a combination of modern technology with ancient faith.

He had also said this project would become a model for similar projects elsewhere and give a new global identity to Kashi.

Posters have been put up on ornate lamp posts in streets near the iconic temple - one of the 12 Jyotirlingas -- hailing Modi for "realising the vision of this project".

The current structure of the temple was constructed by Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar around 1780, and in the 19th century, Maharaja Ranjit Singh had got it crowned with golden 'shikhar'.

A posse of police personnel are guarding the temple premises and public roundabouts and patrolling the streets to ensure everything goes smoothly.

"Given the scale and importance of the programme, security has been stepped up across the city, especially in the areas surrounding the temple and the corridor. A large number of high-profile guests are slated to attend the event. And, a very large number of people are expected to attend it," a senior police official said.

The city, the parliamentary constituency of Modi since 2014, has been decorated ahead of the mega event -- 'Divya Kashi, Bhavya Kashi' -- and the residents of the temple town eagerly await the arrival of the prime minister.

Facades of buildings located on streets leading to the shrine have been painted in uniform light pink colour; and many buildings have been illuminated. Many hotels located near Godowlia Chowk have also been lit up by their owners to celebrate the occasion.

55 HD cameras...

official source told PTI.

According to district administration authorities, Modi's first visit will be to the ancient Kal Bhairav temple, fondly called as 'Kashi ke Kotwal'.

"Our coverage will begin from Kal Bhairav Mandir, and follow his event-related movements throughout the day to bring an immersive experience to viewers through high-def camers and aerial views of the mega event. PM's travel through cruise, his arrival at Lalita Ghat, his movements in the sprawling premises of the corridor, will all be captured in a breathtaking way," the source added.

The drone view will also aerially showcase the sprawling premises of the holy shrine, revered by Hindus as one of the 12 Jyotirlingas, after the redevelopment project.

Modi's Twitter handle...

Twitter handle of PM @narendramodi was very briefly compromised. The matter was escalated to Twitter and the account has been immediately secured. In the brief period that the account was compromised, any Tweet shared must be ignored," it said.

The tweet, after Modi's personal handle was hacked, also claimed that India has officially bought 500 BTC and is distributing them among its residents and shared a link, asking people to hurry up.

The future has come today, it said.

Many users immediately pointed out that the account seems to have been hacked. India, it may be noted, has taken a tough stand on cryptocurrencies.

The government is likely to introduce a bill on cryptocurrencies and has expressed concerns that they may be used for luring investors with misleading claims and for funding terror activities.?

19,370 candidates appear...

In view of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all Examination Centres were sanitized in advance besides candidates were also made to undergo thermal scanning before entering into the examination halls.

To avoid any last minute rush, the candidates were asked to report at the examination venue at least two hours in advance for which wide publicity through print and electronic media was done.

The JKPSC informed that total of 30729 candidates were eligible for taking the examination out of which 19370 candidates appeared for the paper. The commission had established 73 Centres in both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Examination has been designed as two stage process and today's Examination was first stage which will be followed by the interview of candidates shortlisted by qualifying today's paper.

The Chairman, JKPSC thanked the UT Administration and Police Authorities for their cooperation and also complimented the Observers, Magistrates, Supervisors, invigilating and support staff for smooth and successful conduct of examination.

JeM terrorist killed...

has been initiated. People were requested to cooperate till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any", the spokesman added.

Earlier, three terrorists were killed in an encounter in the Check Cholan area of Shopian district on Wednesday. While one was neutralised in the morning, another two were killed later:

On Friday, two policemen were martyred after terrorists opened fire at a police team Bandipora's Gulshan Chowk.

Provide agenda for...

and NC MP from north Kashmir's Baramulla, Mohammad Akbar Lone, NC president and Srinagar MP, Farooq Abdullah, is currently in Jammu.

Masoodi said the party wants to go through the agenda first before taking the decision over its participation in the meeting.

We want to go through the material that is provided to us so that we can look into it and then take our decision, he said.

The NC MP said the two MPs have also reminded the Commission that there has been no response so far from the Commission to the party's letter written on February 17.

The party had boycotted the first meeting of the Commission with the associate members and had sent a letter to the Commission, saying the exercise was an outcome of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act-2019, which the party had challenged in the Supreme Court.

The letter had called upon the Commission to halt the delimitation proceedings as the exercise was being conducted in accordance with the provisions of an Act which is under judicial scrutiny.

Masoodi said once the party MPs get a response from the Commission, they will study it and then take a decision.

We have just been asked to come for the meeting on December 20. What is the meeting about, what do we have to do there, we have no idea. Nothing has been told to us. That is why we have written the letter, he said.

Efforts on to...

representatives of the associations about the substantial upgradation of facilities and infrastructure development for the yatris achieved in the past two years, the spokesman said.

The Lt Governor observed that three Yatri Niwas are being created to provide better boarding and lodging facilities to pilgrims on their way to the cave shrine, he said.

These include Chandarkote Yatri Niwas coming up at Ramban district, which would provide accommodation to around 3,200 yatris, besides Jammu Yatri Niwas and Srinagar Yatri Niwas with a capacity of accommodation of 3000 and 2250 yatris, respectively, the spokesman added.

The representatives of the Langar associations appreciated the efforts of the UT administration and confirmed their active participation in the yatra arrangements, he said.

They also offered their help through donations in terms of monetary as well as material resources required for the infrastructure, the spokesman added.

J&K reports 126...

2306in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 18274913 test results available, 338871 samples have tested positive and 17936042 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 54,901 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 4805963 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 6524persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1541 in isolation and 429053 in home surveillance. Besides, 4364351 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, Ladakh's tally of COVID cases has increased to 21,804 with 12 fresh infections, officials said.

The death toll remained at 215 and of these, 157 deaths have been reported from Leh and 59 from Kargil, they said.

The number of active cases in the Union Territory has dropped to 212 -- 196 in Leh and 16 in Kargil -- from 220 the previous day, according to the officials.

All the 12 new cases were detected in Leh, they said.

The officials said that 18 patients were discharged from hospitals in Leh and two in Kargil, taking the total number of recoveries in Ladakh to 21,377.

J&K did not...

that the target is one particular religion which is not allowed by the Constitution of this country, he added.

Abdullah said this was not the India to which Jammu and Kashmir had acceded. J-K had acceded to a secular, tolerant India, he said, adding, this (Khattar's) statement is highly condemnable.

Aprons with name...

and maintaining discipline in the institution," reads a circular n issued by Principal GMC Jammu, Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma today.

PDP youth event...

the Kashmir issue. We all have to come together, especially the youth. We have to show them that we are not afraid of them. If we were afraid, then we would also make compromises like other parties," she said.

She claimed that all other leaders and parties were holding rallies but only PDP was denied permission.

In an order, the Executive Magistrate, First Class, South Srinagar said in view of the report received from the Senior Superintendent of Police and the COVID-19 restrictions in place, it is hereby ordered that the scheduled youth conference that is to be held by PDP at Gupkar is not allowed."

The magistrate directed the station house officer concerned to "ensure" that no such event takes place "without the permission of the competent authority."

In a statement, the police spokesman said a gathering of at least 1000 people was expected at the venue and given the prevalent COVID situation and larger security

implications resulting from allowing such a large number of people and accompanying cars and vehicles into a high-security zone, it was not advisable to allow such a large flow of people and unchecked vehicles.

The spokesman said there are credible inputs of vehicle-bound IEDs being used to target civilians and high-security installations.

The Gupkar Road houses high-security buildings of various organisations and security-sensitive establishments and intelligence agencies. Allowing a large number of vehicles to be parked in this high-security zone would have jeopardised the security in the area, he said.

He said no such gatherings and amassing of vehicles were allowed on the road earlier as well.

Moreover, no official residence has been known to have hosted large political rallies on Gupkar Road in the recent past.

"Legal orders for necessary restrictions on the convention were passed by the Executive Magistrate, South Srinagar keeping in mind the COVID protocol and security sensitiveness of Gupkar zone, the police spokesman said.

However, addressing a press conference at her residence later, Mufti said the administration was confused and did not know what excuses to make for stopping the party's convention.

First they gave the excuse of COVID. But, since conventions of other parties were on at various places, they thought this excuse will not work. Also, if this (Gupkar area) is not secure -- where Badamibagh Cantonment, VVIP residences, Governor House are located then which place is secure? That is ridiculous, she said.

The PDP president claimed the party had earlier sought permission for the convention at some other place, but there was no response from the administration.

Then we thought that since the other parties were organising it, we will also have it here in an open space... Since this is our residence, there was no need for permission, she said.

She alleged her party workers were roughed up and some of them detained while on their way to the venue.

However, she said, her party "will not surrender".

How can the LG's administration be brazen? You make COVID excuses but allow other parties. I cannot understand this. How can they justify this? she said.

Duty of courts...

"This is the first offence committed by the appellant, no doubt, a heinous one. The certificate issued by the Jail Superintendent shows that the conduct of the appellant during incarceration has been satisfactory," the bench said.

The apex court said it cannot therefore be said that there is no possibility of the appellant being reformed and rehabilitated foreclosing the alternative option of a lesser sentence and making imposition of death sentence imperative.

Modi Govt committed...

Dr Jitendra Singh called for wider introspection by the polity, the society and the nation at large whether this is the kind of propriety which is to be followed by a ruling government in a State. He emphasized that these State Governments have to come clear and state whether they trust CBI or not, or whether they trust CBI selectively as they continue to give selective consent in cases which suit them.

The Minister called upon these State governments to rethink on the decision of withdrawal of general consent to CBI to investigate cases.

The Minister reminded that many cases are also referred to CBI by the States under public pressure which indicates that people have greater trust in CBI. Similarly, complex and urgent cases are also assigned to CBI by the judiciary on many occasions, he added.

Drawing attention to the Prime Minister's address in October this year, wherein he said, "New India is no longer ready to accept that corruption as part of the system", DrJitendra Singh said, efforts are afoot at a fast pace to make the system transparent, efficient and smooth. He said, prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was amended after 30 years in 2018 to introduce a number of new provisions including criminalizing the act of giving bribe also in addition to taking bribe and at the same time putting in place an effective deterrence for such actions by individuals as well as corporate entities. He said the commitment of the present government is to bring in more transparency, more citizen centricity and more accountability in governance and is indicated by its decisive initiatives to operationalize the institution of the Lokpal in the country to check corruption at high places.

Referring to the success of "Digital India" in all spheres of life, DrJitendra Singh said that through DBT, the benefits are 100% reaching to the poor directly and it has strengthened the trust of common people in the institutions of the country. He said, now digital options are available to the citizens of the country; be it for pension, scholarship, water bill, electricity bill, loan from banks, need to get a passport or a license or setting up a start-up and hordes of other services and facilities.

Dr Jitendra gave away awards to the best officers on the occasion and called upon the decorated officers to rededicate themselves to the service of the nation with best of their skills and talent.

Kashmir continues to...

officials said on Sunday. Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius on Saturday night -- up by 0.6 degrees from the previous night -- which was the coldest of the season so far, the officials said.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius -- up from minus 5.5 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The officials said Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius, they said. The resort was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Office has forecast light rain and snow at isolated to scattered places in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

Jammu Club elects...

and Chander Kapoor (1095). A total of 1650 votes were polled, 28 were postal ballots. 30 votes were declared as invalid. Vinod Sharma was returning officer while Ejaz Ahmed Tak and Seema Khajooria were the scrutinizers for the Jammu Club elections (2021-2023).

persons were administered first and second COVID vaccine doses across Ramban district on Sunday. As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 2,334 samples including 624 RT-PCR and 1,710 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccine to 933 persons at dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

District Police Kathua also Challenged 145 people who violated Government order and a total fine amounting to Rs 43,900 was collected as a penalty from violators.

One arrested with intoxicating capsules

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Intensifying its action against drug menace within District, Kathua Police under overall supervision of SSP R C Kotwal on Sunday recovered 64 intoxicating capsules and arrested a person.

As per the details, a team of Police Station Kathua led by PSI Riaz Ahmed under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua Shammi Kumar during patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area noticed one suspect namely Sanga Ram, son of Girdhari Lal, resident of Ward No. 11, Kathua, enroute Berrian Pattan (near Choti Nehar) and asked him to stop for checking, after which a black polythene bag containing 64 number SPM-PRX intoxicating capsules were recovered from his possession. The accused was arrested and FIR No. 518/2021 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Kathua.

Scooty rider killed in road mishap

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: A scooty rider was killed on Sunday in a road accident near Trich in Pulwama.

As per details, a scooty rider identified as Rouf Ahmad Reshi, son of Ab Hamid Reshi, a resident of Gooripora Awantipora was critically injured when a speedy tipper (JK13G-5369) hit him near Trichal Pulwama. He was shifted to District hospital pulwama where doctors declared him as brought dead.

4 bovines rescued; smuggler flees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Sunday foiled a bovine smuggling bid by reseuing 4 bovines however the smuggler escaped from the spot.

As per details, a team of Police Station Rajbagh led by Insp Amit Sangra SHO Rajbagh during patrolling/checking duty noticed a suspicious Mahindra(JK21F-7536) moving towards Jammu and directed it to stop for checking. On seeing police, driver of vehicle was managed to flee away from spot leaving behind vehicle with 4 bovines in it. FIR No 259/2021 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA was registered at Police Station Rajbagh and further investigation started.

10 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police teams of Police Stations Jhajjar Kotli &

Nagrota, Police Posts Phallain Mandal, Poonichak, Sainik Colony and Canal Road acted stringently on specific inputs and raided different locations in their respective areas. The teams seized 10 different vehicles involved in illegal mining, which included a tractor-trolley (JK02BT 6341) seized by Jhajjar Kotli police; a dumper (JK02CS 6277) seized by Nagrota police; 4 tractor-trolleys without registration numbers seized by Poonichak police; a tractor-trolley without registration number seized by Phallain Mandal police; a tipper (JK21D 4532) seized by Sainik Colony police and 2 tippers (JK02CT 6881 and JK02CG 5917) seized by Canal Road police.

The overall recoveries were made by SHO Jhajjar Kotli Insp Devinder Singh, SHO Nagrota Insp Vishav Pratap Singh, Incharge Police Post Poonichak PSI Nitish Khajuria, Incharge Police Post Phallain Mandal PSI Ajesh Singh, Incharge Police Post Sainik Colony PSI Mohd Younis Khanday and Incharge Police Post Canal Road PSI Ishfaq Ahmed Khasana in their respective jurisdictions. DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same.

3 arrested with counterfeit cement bags

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: R S Pura police on Sunday arrested a fraudster namely Chainter Singh, son of Jagjeet Singh, resident of Sunderpur along with two labourers who were caught red-handed packing local quality soldier cement into bags with mark of Ambuja and Ultratech in order to earn illegal benefits.

As per details, an information was received through reliable sources at Police Station R S Pura on which a team led by SHO Pura Jai Pal Sharma assisted by Incharge Police Post Baspura Bangla Mohinder Singh under supervision of SDPO R S Pura Shabir Khan raided a hideout of fradusters and seized around 300 packed bags and 400 empty bags of Ambuja and Ultratech cement and local soldier cement. Police also seized logistic machinery like sewing machine, funnels, Yellow and white threads etc used for packing and stitching of bags. All accused were arrested and FIR No 230/2021 under sections 420,482,483,486 of IPC was registered against them at Police Station R S Pura. Police is looking for backward and forward channel of the supply chain. The operation was conducted under the overall supervision of SP Hqrs Jammu Rammish Gupta.

