

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Committed to provide...

organisations and civil society groups.
The Lieutenant Governor further spoke on the infrastructural development including widening of road, upgradation of various facilities for the safe and smooth conduct of the yatra.

He observed that additional cloak-rooms were made functional at Holy Cave and Lower Holy Cave. As many as 122 Langars provided free of cost food and prasad to the yatisrs during Yatra 2024 along both the Yatra routes. This included 47 Langars/NGOs along Baltal axis, 14 in Sangam and Holy Cave area, 59 on Pahalgam axis and 2 in Srinagar Yatri Niwas. Social organizations were also engaged in providing free fodder service at Pahalgam and Poshpathri, operationalization of free of cost battery car service on Baltal route and distribution of the safety helmets to yatisrs in Yatra stretches vulnerable to shooting stones, he said.

He said the disaster preparedness, decongestion of Holy Cave and Lower Holy Cave area was successfully undertaken prior to the commencement of Yatra 2024. For the safety and convenience of pilgrims and langar sewadars, it was ensured that langars were set up only in demarcated safer zones at Holy Cave and Lower Holy Cave and langar sewadars were allowed in the yatra area with valid RFID cards only, the Lieutenant Governor further added.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that all langar organisations and voluntary organisations should strive to provide high quality of service to the pilgrims.

K.N Rai, Member, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB); Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, CEO, SASB; KK Sharma, Member, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr Rashmi Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K; Rahul Singh, Additional CEO, SASB, representatives of langar and social organisations were present.

Pakistani drone with...

late Saturday, they said.
Confirming the recovery, a BSF spokesperson said a smuggling attempt was foiled by the alert troops with the successful interception of the Pakistani drone along with 495 grams of narcotic substance at 8.10 pm on Saturday.
"The relentless dedication and sharp vigil of BSF Jammu personnel have once again defeated the nefarious design of anti-national elements, showcasing their unwavering commitment to the nation's security," the official said in a statement.

17 vehicles used...

along with the Department of Geology and Mining seized 17 vehicles -- 11 excavators and six trucks -- in Kulgam," he said.

The raids were carried out in Thokerpora, Ashmuji and Bhan, he added.
"Legal proceedings have been initiated against those involved in illegal mining," the spokesperson said.

Omar tells Congress...

Congress has expressed doubts about the EVM's infallibility and the election outcome. It has demanded a return to the paper ballot.

Abdullah's comments add to his National Conference party's unhappiness with the Congress, which was allied with it during the September Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

NC officials have privately said that the Congress did not do its bit during the campaigning and left all the heavy lifting to them. Still, the NC won 42 seats in the 90-member Assembly, and the Congress got six.

The chief minister emphasised that electoral machines remain the same regardless of the election outcome, and parties should not use them as a convenient excuse for defeat.

"One day voters choose you, the next day they don't," he said and gave his own example of facing defeat in Lok Sabha polls while winning a majority in the September assembly polls.

"I never blamed the machines," he said.

BJP seizes on...

Gandhi is increasingly looking like a loser no one wants to stand with."
Another BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said, "INDI alliance member Omar Abdullah exposes Rahul Gandhi & the opposition on fake propaganda on EVMs. Congress is anti-democracy."

Give up arms...

change taking place within the society also know that it is not limited to only 1.5 lakh people participating in the Bastar Olympics.

"Everyone is saying that Bastar is changing. I assure you that when I will come to the 2026 Bastar Olympics, I will say that Bastar has changed," he said, adding that this change has been initiated by the Bastar Olympics.

The Union home minister said this event will write a new saga of development of Bastar in the coming days and will become a strong basis for the complete eradication of Naxalism.

He also said many development works are being done, through which Naxalism is being defeated.

Modi to inaugurate...

to conserve water for that generation.

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh governments signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Jal Shakti in January 2024 to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) and onbroad planning of the Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (MPKC) link project, integrated with the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP).

The project is expected to improve water crisis in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The MPKC link project, inter alia, involves major rivers, viz; Chambal and its tributaries Parbati, Kalisindh, Kuno, Banas, Banganga, Ruparail, Gambhiri, and Mej.

According to the information shared in Parliament, the project is envisaged to provide water to the 21 newly constituted districts, including Jhalawar, Kota, Bundi, Tonk, Savai Madhopur, Gangapur, Dausa, Karauli, Bharatpur, Alwar, etc, in Rajasthan to the districts of Guna, Shivpuri, Sheopur, Sehore, Shajapur, Rajgarh, Ujjain, Mandsaur, Morena, Ratlam, Gwalior, etc, in Madhya Pradesh. The project will serve various purposes, such as, drinking water supply, irrigation and to meet industrial water demands.

Tabla maestro Ustad...

Francisco with his family, where he has continued to play a pivotal role in the global music scene.

The tabla maestro has received numerous national and international accolades throughout his distinguished career. The Government of India has awarded him prestigious civilian honors, including the Padma Shri in 1988, Padma Bhushan in 2002, and Padma Vibhushan in 2023. In 1990, he was also honored with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, India's highest recognition in music.

Maharashtra: 39 ministers...

three MoS. Shiv Sena was allotted nine positions as Cabinet ministers and two MoS, while the NCP will have eight ministers of Cabinet rank and a minister of state.

Among the new inductees, four are women, including Pankaja Munde, Madhuri Misal, and Meghna Bordikar of BJP and Aditi Tatkare of NCP. Munde and Tatkare took oath as Cabinet ministers, and Bordikar and Misal as MoS.

Prominent leaders excluded in the new Cabinet are Chhagan Bhujbal and Dilip Walse Patil of NCP, and Sudhir Mungantiwar and Vijaykumar Gavit of BJP.

From Shiv Sena, former ministers Tanaji Sawant, Deepak Kesarkar, and Abdul Sattar were not re-inducted. Anil Patil, Sanjay Bandsode, and Dharmarao Baba Atram of NCP also missed out on the second chance.

The swearing-in ceremony at Raj Bhavan in Nagpur was conducted after 33 years, the last such event being the cabinet expansion of the Sudhakarrao Naik dispensation in 1991.

Naik had expanded his council of ministers by inducting Shiv Sena rebels Chhagan Bhujbal and Rajendra Gole, who had switched over to the ruling Congress. The Congress' Beed legislator Jaidutt Kshirsagar was also inducted into the Naik government at the time.

They were administered the oath of office by then Governor C Subramaniam.

The Cabinet expansion saw the re-entry of state BJP chief Chandrashekhara Bawankule, Jaykumar Raval, Pankaja Munde, and Ashok Uike who had

served as ministers during Fadnavis' first term from 2014 to 19.

Region-wise, a maximum of nine ministers are from the western Maharashtra region including Madhuri Misal, Makrand Patil, Shivendrasinh Bhosale, Hasan Mushrif, Chandrakant Patil, Shambhuraaj Desai, Prakash Abitkar, Jaykumar Gore, and Datta Bhanre.

With eight ministers, including Girish Mahajan, Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Sanjay Savkare, Gulabrao Patil, Dadaji Bhuse, Jaykumar Rawal, Manikrao Kokate, and Narhari Zirwal, the north Maharashtra comes second.

Seven ministers- Chandrashekhara Bawankule, Sanjay Rathod, Akash Fundkar, Ashok Uike, Indranil Naik, Ashish Jaiswal, and Pankaj Bhoir are from the Vidarbha region in east Maharashtra.

The Marathwada region will be represented by six ministers namely Pankaja Munde (BJP) and her cousin Dhananjay Munde (NCP), Atul Save, Sanjay Shirsat, Meghana Bordikar, and Babasaheb Patil.

Ganesh Naik, Ashish Shelar, Pratap Sarnaik, and Mangal Prabhat Lodha have been inducted from the Mumbai/Thane region.

The coastal Konkan region is represented by five ministers, including Nitesh Rane, Uday Samant, Yogesh Kadam, Bharat Gogawale, and Aditi Tatkare.

The first-timers from three Mahayuti allies include Yogesh Kadam, Meghna Bordikar, Madhuri Misal, Pankaj Bhoir, Shivendrasinh Bhosale, Manikrao Kokate, Jaykumar Gore, Narhari Zirwal, Pratap Sarnaik, Bharat Gogawale, Makrand Patil, Nitesh Rane, Akash Fundkar, Babasaheb Patil, Prakash Abitkar, and Sanjay Savkare.

With the induction of NCP's Babasaheb Patil, the Ahmadpur constituency in Latur district has got representation in the state ministry after 20 years.

Babasaheb Patil, who defeated NCP (SP) leader and former minister Vinayakrao Patil in the November 20 state polls, has become a state cabinet minister for the first time.

In 2009, Babasaheb Patil was elected for the first time from Ahmadpur on the Rashtriya Samaj Paksha ticket. In 2014, he unsuccessfully contested the election on the ticket of the undivided NCP. He won the 2019 elections.

Changes in foreign...

that direction," the EAM said.

In his address, he also asserted that a vision for a developed India needs a foreign policy for 'Viksit Bharat'.

"If today our aspiration at home is to become a Viksit Bharat, surely there must be a foreign policy for Viksit Bharat. And, that foreign policy in a way, I would say, we had about a decade ago suggested the need for India to start thinking about moving towards a leading power. How to be more ambitious, how to plan ahead," the EAM said.

Now, some of it is also about positioning, a country will have in a sense, if it had the most friends, the least problems. The best relationships, the 'minimal baggage', and in that positioning the concept of 'Vishwa Bandhu' came up, he added.

The vision of 'Viksit Bharat' laid down by Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to build India as a developed nation by 2047 when it will complete 100 years as an independent nation.

In his address, the external affairs minister also touched upon the aspects of various tracks of diplomacy and the importance of their inter-dynamics.

"If we look back the last 25 years, and I grant you, I have a vested interest in that statement, but if you look back the last 25 years in this country, track 1 has been consistently ahead of track 2, when it comes to diplomacy, foreign policy and keeping up with the world," he said.

"In fact, if you look at many of the big ideas, much of the advocacy of change, I would say, really it is interesting that track 1 has outpaced track 2. Because, I do think that this dynamic of track 1, track 2, government, think-tank, official, academic, need changes in our country," the EAM added.

Track 1 diplomacy refers to official, government to government diplomacy while track 2 refers to unofficial contact and interaction in a diplomacy.

Jai Shankar said "our public space discourse should not be theological, it should not be polemical, it should not come as a defence of the past versus a compulsion to move beyond the past".

"So, to me a platform that signifies realism, which is contemporary, ambitious, I think it makes such a platform relevant," he added.

The EAM said if things are going to change then that begs a different question, "do we defend, manage, advance, or do we do all of the same".

"How ambitious we should be, what is it that we are aiming for. And, what should be the timing for what we should do," he asked.

And, if "we do raise our hedge to what degree and on what issues. I think that's also a very important concern," the minister added.

"Just like the economic debates and the economic model of this country became more open, I think foreign policy, foreign policy thinking of this country has to keep pace with what is happening in this country, and needs to be more open. And, for that it's important to have an integrated outlook," the EAM asserted.

Shweta Mittal becomes first women from J&K to win Procam Slam Marathon title

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shweta Mittal, Runner, Cyclist & Fitness Enthusiast, has become the first woman from Jammu & Kashmir to successfully complete and win the Procam Slam Marathon title on Sunday at Kolkata.

Procam Slam is a running program that recognizes the dedication and hard work of amateur runners who complete four consecutive Procam running events: Tata Mumbai Marathon, TCS World 10K Bengaluru, Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, and Tata World 25K Kolkata. It is a dream for all the marathoners to conquer the Procam Slam running programme that recognises and rewards great amateur runners for their devotion and hard effort in all Procam International running events. The Procam Slam holds a high significance in the lives of the marathoners which shows unmatched perseverance and dedication throughout the demanding course. To become a Procam Slam Champion, runner needs to complete the appended feature race categories with in the defined finish time cut-off: Marathon in Under 6 hr & 30 mins @ Tata Mumbai Marathon, Open 10K in Under 1 hr 25 mins @ TCS World 10K Bengaluru, Half Marathon in under 3 hr 30 mins @ Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon & 25K Run in under 3 hrs 45 mins @ Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata.

Procam International, Tata Steel Kolkata 25K Run saw Shweta Mittal from Jammu, demonstrated extraordinary perseverance and skill as outstanding athlete. She showcased unwavering passion and dedication. More than 20,000 athletes from various parts of the country and abroad joined this prestigious event, making it a remarkable display of sporting camaraderie and excellence. Moreover, Shweta Mittal earned the prestigious titles of "Procam Slam 2024."

Shweta Mittal has been continuously participating in marathons across the country for the last few years, with the aim of leading the youth towards sports. "It was a pride moment for me to participate in such an international event. I believe nothing is difficult if you decide to achieve it," said Shweta Mittal. "We should not participate just to win the race, but participation is much more important than winning. Cycling and running are the best ways to improve your health and refine your endurance" she added.

Shweta Mittal already has a lot more credits to her score by Achieving, Podium Finisher 70.3 Ironman Duathlon for (03) three consecutive years 2022, 2023 & 2024, Podium Finisher 10k Hearth Marathon 2024, Finisher 42.1k Tata Mumbai Marathon 2024, Finisher 10k TCS Bengaluru 2024, Finisher 21k Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2024, Gold medallist 5K, 10k, 400M - J&K Masters Athletic Meet 2023, Gold Finisher HDOR Half Marathon Challenge 2022, Ambassador Ganga Sustainability Run Rishikesh 2022, Gold medallist 800M J&K Masters Athletic Meet 2022, Podium Finisher Jammu marathon 2022, Podium Finisher 35k Ganga Sustainability Run Rishikesh 2022, Podium Finisher Gran Fondo 50k 2022, Podium Finisher Patnitop half marathon 2022, Podium Finisher Katra half marathon 2022, 26k Republic Day Flag Run 2022, Cycling Brevet De Randonneur Mondiaux (BRM) 200k Ride 2021, Finisher Duathlon by Ecocycleture 75k ride + 7.5k run 2021, Many Half Marathons and 10k Runs.



Sakeena, Rana visit Kotranka following tragic deaths in Budhaal village

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOTRANKA: In the wake of seven tragic deaths due to an unidentified health illness in two families from Budhaal village, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, and Education, Sakeena Itoo and Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Sunday visited Sub-Division Kotranka to review the situation and assess the measures being undertaken.

The Ministers chaired a detailed review meeting regarding the matter which was attended by senior officers including Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah.

Sakeena Itoo emphasized the urgency of strengthening health systems and enforcing social distancing, expediting results from forensic laboratories, directing the Food & Supplies Department to collect and test additional samples and Animal Husbandry Department to collect and test milk samples. In addition, she directed to ensure a team of doctors remains stationed in Kotranka besides establishing an MRI facility at Kotranka for improved diagnostic capabilities.

Javed Rana stressed the importance of conducting water quality testing in adjacent areas by the water quality monitoring team. In addition, he announced two mobile medical units (MMU's) for Rajouri and Poonch districts, with each costing around Rs 1 crore from Tribal Affairs department. These MMUs would be equipped with basic medical equipment and staffed by



healthcare professionals. These have been designed to provide a range of healthcare services, including preventive care, diagnostics and treatment of common illnesses.

Further, he also directed the Forest officials to prepare and submit a DPR for water conservation through construction of check dams to address long-term water management issues.

Furthermore, a central team comprising experts from NCDC, PGIMER Chandigarh, and ICMR is enroute Rajouri to assist in the investigation and provide technical support for tackling the unknown illness.

Both the Ministers reiterated the Government's unwavering commitment towards ensuring all necessary facilities and support for the affected families and communities.

MLA Budhal, Javed Iqbal Choudhary, appreciated the efforts of the district administration.

Secretary Health briefed the meeting on critical interventions, including deployment of rapid response teams

and ensuring availability of logistics, drugs and ambulances and setting up isolation wards at GMC Rajouri, Jammu, and SMGS Hospital.

Earlier, DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, provided an extensive presentation outlining the timeline of events, spot maps, objectives, and case definitions. He highlighted efforts in passive and active surveillance, data collection, laboratory investigations, autopsies, environmental inquiries and descriptive epidemiology. Till date, 3,145 individuals have been surveyed through house-to-house visits and 384 special health camps have been organized in the affected areas.

The meeting was attended by SSP Rajouri, Gaurav Sikarwar, ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Mangotra, Principal GMC Rajouri, AS Bhatia, Medical Superintendent Shamim Ahmed, CMO Rajouri, Manohar Rana and other district officers.

Speaker Legislative Assembly inspects healthcare facilities at Char-i-Sharief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Sunday inspected functioning of several healthcare institutions in Char-i-Sharief to assess the infrastructural facilities and overall medicare being provided to the local population.

During the visit, the Speaker inspected SDH Nagam, PHC Nowpora, PHC Dada-Ompora, PHC Kanir, CHC Krenshore and had on spot assessment of medical care services focusing mainly on functioning of essential health services, cleanliness, patient care and availability of necessary medical equipment and medicines.

During the inspection, the Speaker interacted with medical staff and healthcare providers to understand challenges they face on routine basis. He assured them due enhancement in infrastructure and other facilities to meet the growing healthcare needs of local populace.

The Speaker, during the tour, also interacted with the patients and their atten-



dants to understand their concerns. He also took appraisal about the quality of medical care services being available at the facilities.

At SDH Nagam, the locals raised several issues and demands before the Speaker like construction of retention wall behind the hospital as well as a boundary wall, installation of digital X-ray facility, deployment of ultrasound specialist, biodegradable medical waste

management shed, installation of lift facility and oxygen generation plant besides macedamization of hospital approach road.

While interacting with the locals, the Speaker assured them that all of these issues and demands will be addressed promptly.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Director Health Services Kashmir and other district and Health officers were present during the visit.

Pawan Khajuria thanks workers, public

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR A workers' meet was organised with the local residents of Khun and Majalta blocks of Udhampur East Assembly constituency at HD Palace, Dayot, Khun Block.

Hundreds of workers, women, elderly, young friends and local residents of Majalta and Khun blocks participated in the workers' meet.

Pawan Khajuria, who contested the assembly elections as independent candidates, DDC Jagam Parikshit Singh, DDC Majalta Advocate Amit Sharma, Sarpanch Panada Rajesh Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Bishan Das, Captain Gopal Singh, Kameshwar etc. participated prominently.

Pawan Khajuria thanked everyone on this occasion and said "you worked day and night in the elections.



Despite getting very little time, you worked very hard and due to that hard work we got around 31 thousand votes. He further said that this is the first meeting in almost two months after the elections. Apologizing to all the workers, he said "this meeting should have been held long ago but poor health did not allow it, whenever I thought of meeting you, some physical problem came in the way. I could not even attend the phone calls of many".

He assured that if any

person has any work, whether it is related to the district administration or the center, he can tell me without hesitation, whether it is day or night, you can contact me anytime.

Ex Sarpanch Bittu Raina, Panch Shaukat Ali Khatana, Balwan Chand, Sarpanch Balwant Raj, Naib Sarpanch Kewal Kumar, Sarpanch Baburam, Makhn Lal, Sarpanch Hansraj, Mujammil, Krishn Lal and Feroz Din were also present.