

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Knowledge revolution needed...

not restricted to curriculum only and are free to share their experiences and wisdom with the students.

"Unless teachers are empowered, students will not be empowered, unless students are empowered, the nation cannot be strong," he said.

Speaking on the reforms introduced in education sector in the past few years, the Lieutenant Governor said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are witnessing an educational revolution across the country.

He also spoke on the impact of Artificial Intelligence in modern educational system and its greater role in making the teacher-student engagement more productive. He further highlighted that AI technology should be considered as a supportive tool rather than a complete replacement of teachers.

"Artificial Intelligence supported classroom and not Artificial Intelligence led classroom should be our future strategy," the Lieutenant Governor told the Educational Institutions.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the students who excelled in academics and diverse fields and extended his best wishes to them. He also released the poster of Bhajan Video by the students of the school titled "Garud Vahini Vaishnavi".

Padma Shri Prof Vishwamurti Shastri; Padma Shri Dr SP Varma; Padma Shri Mohan Singh; Padma Shri Romalo Ram; Dr Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu and Bishan Singh Dardi were honoured for their significant contribution in their respective fields.

Students presented captivating performances highlighting social issues. A pledge to 'Stop Food Wastage' was also administered to the dignitaries, school management, teachers, students and parents.

Hira Lal Abrol, Chairman, Mahavir International School; Gourav Abrol, Director of the school; Kundan Lal Dogra, Principal, school staff, teachers, students, and parents were present.

India to set...

Pakistan (2,289 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km) is a work in progress.

"We have had an encouraging response from the CIBMS deployed along the riverine border in Assam's Dhubri (India-Bangladesh international border) but some improvements are required," he said.

The minister also said that the Modi government's Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) for developing and bringing into the mainstream the population of northern borders will be implemented for all the frontier villages of the country in the future.

This is Modi government's "biggest achievement" vis-a-vis enhancing border security and working for the population living in these remote areas with a fund allocation of Rs 4,800 crore. It is being run on an "experimental basis" currently in around 3,000 villages, he said.

Shah said the Union government has sanctioned a "big" budget for strengthening India's borders -- fencing, frontier infrastructure, roads and other logistics.

"Securing global recognition and the number one place for India by 2047 is not possible without our security personnel... the jawans who guard our borders with dedication," he said.

Speaking about securing India's frontiers, Shah said for many years, India's border security policy "lacked clarity".

"During prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure, an integrated approach to border management and the "One Border, One Force" policy was introduced, which became even more defined after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister," he said.

Shah said fencing has been completed along 591 kms of the India-Bangladesh border.

Floodlights have been "installed" along 1,159 kilometers of the border apart from the construction of 579 observation posts, he said.

Additionally, 685 locations have been provided with electricity connections, 575 places with water connections, and 570 solar plants have been installed to ensure power supply, he stated.

Shah said about 573 new border posts have been created by the Modi government apart from 1,812 km of roads in remote frontier areas.

BSF Director General (DG) Daljit Singh Chawdhary said 13,226 newly trained personnel have been posted in various battalions and this will add to the "operational strength" of the force.

An additional 4,000 freshly recruited personnel are under training while about 12,000 will join the force next month to learn security and combat skills before being posted at the borders, he said.

Chawdhary also spoke about the "increasing number" of drones carrying arms and drugs being sent by the enemy from across the Pakistan border.

More than 250 drones have been intercepted this year on the western border, he said. "We have deployed a DRDO-made anti-drone system to check this menace," he said.

Search ops underway...

some three to four suspected persons and responded immediately by mobilising the available resources. The area was also kept under aerial surveillance," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Shobit Saxena said.

He said the operation is underway but there was no trace of the suspected persons so far.

Cop shoots dead...

of Police, Udhampur, Amod Ashok Nagpure said the accused used his AK 47 assault rifle in the firing.

"They were posted in Sopore and belonged to Kashmir. The accused shot dead his colleague before killing himself," the officer said, quoting the preliminary information.

Earlier the police said in a statement that, "Today, at about 6.30 am, Police Station Rehembal received an information that two policemen from Sopore travelling towards STC Talwara in a department vehicle have suffered bullet injuries due to firing.

"Initial investigation reveals that it is a case of fratricide and suicide. Senior police officers have reached the spot and investigation is underway," it said.

Don't have magic...

Omar Abdullah-led government, he said, "Who told you that they are not getting along. A lot of enemies (of the government) are sitting here and they will always try this. I do not know of anything like that."

On the Rohingya issue, he said the Rohingya Muslims were provided shelter in Jammu by the central government and "we have nothing to do with it".

"Why ask us about them? Ask those who have sent them here. India has been giving shelter to refugees since long and will continue to do so.

Seeking support from the people, Abdullah said the people should vote for the right candidates in the upcoming panchayat and ULB elections. "Vote deserving candidates who bring you together and work for your upliftment."

The NC leader said he is aware of the problems being faced by the people living in far flung areas. "I assure you that all your needs will be addressed to your satisfaction."

"In the last 10 years, they are claiming that a lot was done for the people but there is nothing on the ground. They have ruined J&K and made a lot of money by corrupt practices...the Adani issue brought a bad name to the country and incidentally J&K is one of the five states named in the corruption," he said.

Four of family die...

safety and prevent further risks.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kotranka, Dil Mir, has been actively coordinating with the bereaved family, ensuring they receive all necessary support. The administration has also initiated plans to raise awareness about food and water safety in the region to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Fresh snow in...

north Kashmir, the officials said.

The Met office has forecast wet weather for the next 24 hours, with the possibility of light snowfall in parts of south Kashmir.

The snowfall brightened the hopes of better winter tourism in Kashmir, which witnessed a relatively dry winter last year.

"We are hoping for a good amount of snow this year so that tourists can come and enjoy themselves. Last year, there was scant snow even in Gulmarg, which kept the tourists away from the Valley," said Shoaib Ahmad, a travel agent.

Ajazz Ahmad, a tour operator, said they had plenty of enquiries from both domestic and foreign tourists during the past week, when the higher reaches received snow.

"Today's snowfall in Gulmarg is surely going to boost tourist arrivals this winter," he added.

Not just military...

provide students a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience of complex areas of law in a competitive setting.

"The element of confidence in speaking, the oration, the expression is extremely important when you go for civil services or any other public assignment. These are the platforms where you gain this confidence and learn. As an activity, mooting instils a sense of competition and facilitates holistic development, intellectual engagement and the exercise of ideas among peers," the SC judge asserted.

With rise in economic and financial crimes in countries such as India, it is important that young students are trained to research in these fields of law through such competitions, he added.

Fall of Bashar Assad...

taking office, was attractive, stylish and British-born.

The young couple, who eventually had three children, seemed to shun trappings of power. They lived in an apartment in the upscale Abu Rummaneh district of Damascus, as opposed to a palatial mansion like other Arab leaders.

Initially upon coming to office, Assad freed political prisoners and allowed more open discourse. In the "Damascus Spring," salons for intellectuals emerged where Syrians could discuss art, culture and politics to a degree impossible under his father.

But after 1,000 intellectuals signed a public petition calling for multiparty democracy and greater freedoms in 2001, and others tried to form a political party, the salons were snuffed out by the feared secret police, who jailed dozens of activists.

Tested by the Arab Spring, Assad relied on old alliances to stay in power

Instead of a political opening, Assad turned to economic reforms. He slowly lifted economic restrictions, let in foreign banks, threw the doors open to imports and empowered the private sector. Damascus and other cities long mired in drabness saw a flourishing of shopping malls, new restaurants and consumer goods. Tourism swelled.

Abroad, he stuck to the line his father had set, based on the alliance with Iran and a policy of insisting on a full return of the Israel-annexed Golan Heights, although in practice Assad never militarily confronted Israel.

In 2005, he suffered a heavy blow with the loss of Syria's decades-old control over neighbouring Lebanon after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. With many Lebanese accusing Damascus of being behind the slaying, Syria was forced to withdraw its troops from the country and a pro-American government came to power.

At the same time, the Arab world split into two camps - one of US-allied, Sunni-led countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the other Syria and Shiite-led Iran with their ties to Hezbollah and Palestinian militants.

Throughout, Assad relied largely on the same power base at home as his father: his Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam comprising around 10 per cent of the population. Many of the positions in his government went to younger generations of the same families that had worked for his father. Drawn in as well were members of the new middle class created by his reforms, including prominent Sunni merchant families.

Assad also turned to his own family. His younger brother Maher headed the elite Presidential Guard and would lead the crackdown against the uprising. Their sister Bushra was a strong voice in his inner circle, along with her husband, Deputy Defence Minister Assef Shawkat, until he was killed in a 2012 bombing. Bashar's cousin, Rami Makhlouf, became the country's biggest businessman, heading a financial empire before the two had a falling-out that led to Makhlouf being pushed aside.

Assad also increasingly entrusted key roles to his wife, Asma, before she announced in May that she was undergoing treatment for leukemia and stepped out of the limelight.

When 2011 protests erupted in Tunisia and Egypt, eventually toppling their rulers, Assad dismissed the possibility of the same occurring in his country, insisting his regime was more in tune with its people. After the Arab Spring wave reached Syria, his security forces staged a brutal crackdown while Assad consistently denied he was facing a popular revolt. He instead blamed "foreign-backed terrorists" trying to destabilise his regime.

His rhetoric struck a chord with many in Syria's minority groups - including Christians, Druze and Shiites - as well as some Sunnis who feared the prospect of rule by Sunni extremists even more than they disliked Assad's authoritarian rule.

As the uprising spiralled into a civil war, millions of Syrians fled to Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Lebanon and on to Europe.

Ironically, on February 26, 2011, two days after the fall of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak to protesters and just days before the wave of Arab Spring protests swept into his country, Assad e-mailed a joke he had run across mocking the Egyptian leader's stubborn refusal to step down.

ISI pushes drug...

by security personnel.

The behaviour displayed by those apprehended has raised suspicions among officials, who suggest that their superficial details and evasive responses indicate a potentially larger agenda behind their infiltration, possibly stemming from the fear of repercussions from their handlers.

They explained that the use of mobile phones and the internet leaves behind electronic footprints that could expose the plans of both state and non-state actors operating across the border. As a result, the ISI has adopted this new modus operandi.

The infiltration strategy reportedly includes women and minors, who may also serve as couriers. In a notable incident in July, a minor from Pakistan's Attock was intercepted in Punjab.

During searches, security personnel discovered a damp paper containing Arabic writing though it was not legible, the officials said.

The ISI's infiltration tactics have been linked to drug smuggling operations. In one case from Bijnour village in Rajasthan, a Pakistani national posing as a mentally disturbed finally spilled the beans during intense questioning that he had been hired by two drug lords in Pakistan -- Sarfaraz Johiya and Nawaz -- to facilitate narcotics trafficking into India and gather information on the deployment of Border Security Force (BSF) troops.

In another recent incident, a Pakistani youth named Mohammed Asad from Lahore drove to the zero line on his motorcycle and seemingly awaited arrest by the BSF. During interrogation, he claimed to have had a family dispute over his girlfriend.

The officials noted that Asad, who was subsequently moved to prison, may have been acting as a courier. Security agencies have requested additional custody for extended interrogation.

In October, a 31-year-old man who identified himself as Shahid Inran entered India through the Jammu sector, claiming that he wanted to visit a Kali temple to get married.

The officials explained that such infiltrators are generally booked under the Foreigners Act and Passports Act, for which the punishment ranges from two years to eight years in prison and following this, they are deported.

They said that in the late-1990s and early-2000s, ISI exploited the Samjhauta Express, the rail link between India and Pakistan, for covert courier operations, employing individuals known as "sawari operators".

This service continued until February 2019, when the train service was halted.

The "sawari operators" played a crucial role in smuggling drugs and transporting funds intended to finance terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Punjab.

However, following a significant crackdown by authorities, these operations were effectively curtailed, leading to the arrest and imprisonment of numerous individuals involved in such activities.

Recent developments suggest that the ISI's current method of sending couriers mirrors these past tactics.

The officials said that the infiltration strategies being employed now are reminiscent of the past, as the agency seeks new ways to bypass law enforcement and deliver crucial communication and resources across the border.

Forgettable Sunday for Indian cricket as men, women and U-19 sides suffer defeats

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: It turned out to be a forgettable day on Sunday for Indian cricket as each of the three national teams -- senior men's, women's and Under-19 men's sides -- suffered humiliating defeats in their respective matches.

While the Rohit Sharma-led side suffered a 10-wicket defeat against Australia in the second Test of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Adelaide, the Indian women lost by a huge 122 runs against Australia in the second ODI to hand their rivals a 2-0 lead in the three-game series in Brisbane.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy is now levelled at 1-1 after India won the series opener in Perth by 295 runs. The third Test will be played in Brisbane from December 14. If that was not enough, the Indian Under-19 side lost by 59 runs against Bangladesh in the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup in Dubai.

Chasing a paltry 199, title favourites India were shot out for a mere 139 in 35.2 overs by the defending champions Bangladesh in the summit clash to lift the Under-19 Asia Cup trophy.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled; 39 bovines rescued, 2 smugglers arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Tightening the noose of bovine smugglers within the district, J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Shobhit Saxena on Sunday rescued 39 bovines at Lakhampur area, 2 persons arrested and seized 02 vehicles (01 Truck & 01 Trala) involved.

In the first instance, a team of Police Station Lakhampur led by SHO under the supervision of DySP DAR Kathua during naka/ checking at Lakhampur area noticed the movement of one suspicious vehicle (Truck) bearing Registration No. JK02DL-2773 which was being driven by a person namely Rohit Kumar, son of Des Raj, resident of Chak Bhagvana Tehsil Jourian Beli Charana Jammu who was enroute from Punjab side towards Srinagar was signalled to stop for checking. During checking of the said vehicle, 12 bovines were found loaded in the vehicle mercilessly which were rescued, 01 person arrested and 01 truck was seized on spot. Thereafter all the 12 bovines (02 Cows & 10 Oxen) were rescued and also seized the vehicle involved. On this, an instant case has been registered at P/S Lakhampur vide FIR No. 133/2024 U/S 223/BNS, 11/PCA act while further investigation into this matter has been set into motion.

While in the second instance, another team of Police Station Lakhampur during naka/ checking at Lakhampur area noticed the movement of one more suspicious vehicle (Trala) bearing Registration No. HR58D-4186 which was being driven by a person namely Vadil Hassan S/o Munshi R/o Alipur Shamli UP who was enroute from Punjab side towards Srinagar was signalled to stop for checking. During checking of the said vehicle, 27 bovines were found loaded in the vehicle mercilessly which were rescued, 1 person arrested and 01 trala was seized on spot. Thereafter all the 27 bovines were rescued and also seized the vehicle involved. On this, an instant case has been registered at P/S Lakhampur vide FIR No. 134/2024 U/S 223/BNS, 11/PCA act while further investigation into this matter has been set into motion. Thus overall 39 bovines were rescued, 02 persons arrested and 02 vehicles were seized as well.

2 drug peddlers arrested, contraband substances recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drug from the society, Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Budgam & Handwara and seized contraband substances from their possession.

Police Post Soibugh received information through reliable sources that a person namely Manzoor Ahmed Bhat son of Ab Kareem Bhat resident of Nadigam has concealed contraband substance in his residential house. Subsequently, a special team was constituted under the supervision of DySP HQrs Budgam led by IC Police Post Soibugh, raided the residential house of the accused. During search, 14 Kgs of Charas Powder was recovered from the said residential house which was seized and the accused was arrested on the spot.

Meanwhile in Handwara, a Police party of Police Station Handwara at a check-point established at Kachwari Handwara, arrested a drug peddler identified as Irshad Ahmad Sofi Son of Mohd Ramzan Sofi resident of Bakiakher. During search, 100 grams of Charas was recovered from his possession.

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

4 vehicles seized for illegal extraction & transportation of minerals

STATE TIMES NEWS

HANDWARA: Police in Handwara in collaboration with Geology & Mining department, sized 02 tippers, 01 tractors and 01 JCB bearing registration numbers JK04B-6128, JK0ZAN-8269, GZUDV344185S3 and HAR3DXSSU01863008 loaded with illegal minerals.

The legal proceedings against the persons involved in illegal extraction without possessing any lawful authority has been initiated. This has been the continuous process of J&K Police and Geology and Mining department to bust the nexus of mineral mafias in PD Handwara to save natural treasure from illegal prowing. Police are resolutely committed to curb the scourge of illegal extraction of minerals in Police District Handwara to safeguard the environment and prevent ecological damage that poses serious health risks to local residents.

Two inter-district narco smugglers arrested with 17.67 grams of heroin

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its campaign against Drugs and Narcotics, District Police Udhampur achieved a success by recovering 17.67 grams of Contraband Heroin like substance at Naka Point Tikri (NIHW) and arresting 02 inter-district narco smugglers.

Police team of Police Post Tikri was conducting routine vehicle checking at Naka Point Tikri and a vehicle (Tavera) bearing registration No. JK01S 8557 was made to stop which was coming from Jammu towards Kashmir valley. During frisking of the passengers/driver of the said vehicle, Police team recovered 17.67 grams of Heroin like substance from two narco smugglers (passengers) who were smuggling the above contraband in the said vehicle. Both the narco smugglers have been arrested on spot.

The arrested persons were identified as Abid Hussain, son of Peer Siraj Din, resident of Soaf Shalli, Anantnag and Mohsin Mohi Din, son of Ghulam Mohi Din, resident of New Colony Anantnag have been arrested on spot.

A case FIR No. 248/2024 under sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station Rehambal and further investigation of the case has been taken up.

Police procedure exhibition visited by Modi may be mounted at Maha Kumbh

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: An exhibition attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit here to witness the implementation of three new criminal laws in policing, may be taken to next year's Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, where an estimated 40 crore devotees are expected to come, officials said.

The temporary enclosure, resembling a hangar and covering an area of over 100,000 square feet, features eight setups where the processes involved in crime investigations are enacted by actors through skits. The skits offer visitors an understanding of the changes following the implementation of the three new criminal laws.

The massive structure also includes several displays explaining the new laws, procedures, and applications used by the police.

The concept of using skits and displays to simplify police procedures for the public was developed under the supervision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He personally reviewed at least three presentations on the concept and execution of the setup before the project was finalised, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh, Kanwardeep Kaur, was tasked with giving a walkthrough of the exhibition, during which she explained how police are implementing the changes in the Union Territory.

After witnessing the presentation on December 3, Modi instructed authorities not to dismantle it immediately and to keep the exhibition open for the public.

The new laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam -- came into effect on July 1, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Indian Evidence Act.

Chandigarh has become the first administrative unit in the country to achieve 100 per cent implementation of the three laws.

According to officials, around 250 to 300 people visit the exhibition every day at PEC College since it opened to the public.

Chandigarh DGP SS Yadav said there are plans to take similar thematic displays to events like the Kumbh Mela and other large-scale gatherings with significant footfall.