

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! J&K readying to...

and opportunities. It will be a one-stop center for education, entrepreneurship, livelihood, health and wellness, tour and travel guidance, safety and security of citizens of Jammu Kashmir living outside the UT, he said.

He shared the transformation of Jammu Kashmir, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In last few years, the UT of Jammu Kashmir has witnessed a complete turnaround in the development scenario. A big section of the population in J&K who were neglected earlier, have been empowered. People's participation is now shaping the future of J&K's growth journey, he said.

Today, J&K is seen as a model in urban transformation, innovation, start-ups, agriculture, industrial development and has created a niche in tourism. The achievements of the youth, women and farmers of J&K are inspiring the country, the Lt Governor observed.

Now, the UT of Jammu Kashmir is seen as a hot-spot of tourism and not the hotspot of terrorism. Last year, a record 2.11 crore tourists visited Jammu Kashmir. The arrival of foreign tourists in the UT has also increased manifolds. Gurez and Lolab Valley were chosen as the most beautiful offbeat destinations of the country in last two years, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the key initiatives of the UT Administration including Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), GI tagging for niche products, better market linkage, capacity building of farmers and promotion of local products. I am confident that in the next 4 years, J&K will be number one in terms of farmers' income in the county, he said.

A number of departments including Tourism, JKTPD, Agriculture, Horticulture, Information and Technology are showcasing their activities in different ways to a wide array of stakeholders during the exhibition.

Products of diverse range, featuring ODOP items, Handmade GI-tagged carpets, GI-tagged Pashmina shawls, silk sarees, chain stitches, authentic Kashmiri suits, paper mache, creweel woodcarving items etc have been put to display for the visitors and the potential buyers.

On the occasion, Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making competition by Department of Information & Public Relations J&K was also launched.

The Information Department invited the filmmakers and citizens of J&K to participate in the competition and submit their short films highlighting development in Jammu Kashmir over the last four years. The Winners will have the opportunity to interact with leading filmmakers in Mumbai. The contest will remain open till February 28, 2024.

The facilities inaugurated by the Lt Governor this afternoon include Officers' Transit Accommodation at Rajaji Marg, Office-cum-Utility Area at J&K House, Chanakypuri and Fitness Centre at JK House, 5- Prithviraj Road.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Satish Chandra, Chairman RERA; Dr Rashmi Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner; senior officials of J&K Government; members of business and trade associations, representatives of SIDBI, PHD Chamber, ASSOCHAM, PICCI, Invest India, NGOs; artisans, entrepreneurs, artists and citizens of J&K living in the national capital and other parts of the country were present.

Terrorist who killed...

Lango, he said, was a highly motivated and radicalised individual. "His handler in Pakistan radicalised him on social media and motivated him to carry out the attack," Birdi said.

The February 7 incident was the first targeted killing of the year by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and the responsibility for it was taken by the banned "The Resistance Front (TRF)", a shadow group of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Birdi said that the weapon was provided to Lango by his handler and this further "motivated him to carry out the attack".

Lango tracked Singh and Masih in the lanes of Habba Kadal and fired on them, killing Singh on the spot, he said.

The victims were attacked when they were on way to their rented accommodation in the area after returning to Srinagar from Amritsar, Birdi said.

ADGP Kumar said police will act tough against people who are from Jammu and Kashmir but residing in Pakistan and operating from there as handlers.

He also appealed to parents and teachers to keep a watch for any "unusual changes" in children's social media accounts.

Asked if terrorism has returned to Srinagar, Kumar said the number of terrorists in Kashmir is low. However, Pakistani handlers are using them to carry out such attacks, he said. Police are constantly working to apprehend them, Kumar added.

"It is a professional hazard that some modules go under the radar. But the police's professionalism and hardwork are evident from the fact that the culprit has been arrested so fast," he said, referring to Lango's arrest.

Kumar said there are 25 local and 30 foreign terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir. "There has been a drastic fall in numbers...This why encounters have also reduced," he added.

Farooq informs ED...

office in Srinagar on Tuesday, but sources said he is currently in Jammu.

The 86-year-old politician was last called by the central agency in this case on January 11 but he did not appear then as well.

The ED investigation pertains to alleged financial irregularities at the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association. The former chief minister was charge-sheeted by the Enforcement Directorate in this case in 2022.

The case relates to alleged siphoning off JKCA funds by transferring to various personal bank accounts of unrelated parties, including those of JKCA office-bearers, and by way of unexplained cash withdrawals from its bank accounts, the ED had said. The agency's case is based on a 2018 charge-sheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the same accused.

Farmers' protest: Singhu...

in the evening, made an announcement, asking the personnel to respond "aggressively" if the protesting farmers try to enter Delhi and "show aggression".

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the "Delhi Chalo" agitation to put pressure on the BJP-led Centre for their demands, including a law on a minimum support price for crops and loan waivers.

Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora visited the Tikri and Singhu borders to review the security arrangements.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government rejected the Centre's proposal to convert the Bawana stadium into a makeshift jail in view of the farmers' march to the national capital.

Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot wrote to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar denying permission for the same and expressed solidarity with the farmers.

Earlier in the day, farmers from Punjab faced tear gas shells -- some dropped by a drone -- at two border points of Haryana-Punjab as protesters tried to break past barricades that were installed to stop them from heading to Delhi.

Police hurled tear gas shells and the protesters hurled stones at the Shambhu border near Haryana's Ambala. Tear gas was also used against protesters at the border between the two states in Haryana's Jind district.

Hours after the clashes between the farmers and security personnel at the Punjab-Haryana border, the Delhi Police closed the Tikri and Singhu borders for the movement of vehicles, forcing people to cross these points on foot.

Traffic crawled at a snail's pace at many places in the Delhi-National Capital Region.

Arun Singh from Uttarakhand, who was on his way to visit his ailing father at a Delhi hospital, felt helpless after being stuck in traffic at the Ghazipur border for hours.

"I have travelled from Uttarakhand to meet my 78-year-old father who is admitted to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital. My family and I have been stuck here since 11 am. It is an extremely frustrating situation for us and we feel angry and helpless," Singh told PTI.

People had to cross the Singhu border between Delhi and Haryana on foot.

Satya Prakash from Himachal Pradesh had no idea that the border was sealed for traffic movement.

"We came all the way from Himachal Pradesh on some work. We have to go to Delhi. The bus driver stopped the vehicle at the border from where we are walking towards the city," he said.

Meanwhile, the Red Fort complex was temporarily closed for visitors due to security reasons.

Asked when the 17th-century monument will reopen, an official said "it will be the call of security agencies".

The Delhi Police has issued prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) for a month -- banning an assembly of five or more people, processions or rallies and the entry of tractor-trolleys ferrying people.

The Delhi Metro regulated passenger entry and exit at nine stations by shutting some gates.

The commuters were allowed to enter or exit these stations through other gates.

The stations where one or more gates were closed were Rajiv Chowk, Mandi House, Central Secretariat, Patel Chowk, Udyog Bhawan, Janpath, Barakhamba Road, Lok Kalyan Marg and Khan Market, a senior official said.

One gate was closed at the Khan Market station, the official added.

During their protest in 2020, farmers from different states, mainly Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, had staged a sit-in at the Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri borders. They sat there from August 2020 to December 2021.

Police had to rush logistics in 2020 to check the entry of the farmers moving in a procession of tractors.

A senior Delhi Police officer said learning from past experience, tight security arrangements were made this time. Police have also sealed rural roads bordering Haryana to stop the protesters from moving ahead to enter Delhi.

Azad pays obeisance...

solace and communal harmony, welcoming people of all regions and religions to come together in prayer. Azad emphasized the importance of spreading the message of unity and brotherhood among all communities.

Later, Azad met several delegations in Rajouri and underscored the importance of grassroots efforts in strengthening the party.

He exhorted party members to intensify their efforts at the grassroots level, emphasizing the pivotal role they play in building robust community engagement and support. Azad reiterated the significance of connecting with the people on local issues and addressing their concerns effectively.

Azad is scheduled to address a public meeting in Mandi Poonch tomorrow.

Among others present on the occasion included Vice chairman GM Saroori, General Secretaries RS Chib and Anita Thakur, Chief spokesperson Salman Nizami, State Secretaries Sunita Arora, Lovely Gupta and Masood Choudhary, Zonal President Zahid Sarfarz Malik, District President Sushil Sharma, Youth President Hassan Mirza and others.

JEE-Main results: 23...

on the relative performance of all those who appeared for the examination in one session, a senior official explained.

The marks obtained are converted into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each session of examinees, the official added.

According to the officials, a Central Control Room was opened to monitor and facilitate the smooth conduct of the examination on the ground.

"2 national coordinators, 18 regional coordinators, 303 city coordinators, 1,083 observers, 150 technical observers, and 162 deputy observers were deployed. Live CCTV Surveillance was planned in all examination centres to curb malpractice in the examination," the official said.

"The NTA also made arrangements for live viewing of remote locations of all examination centres from the Control Room located in the NTA premises of New Delhi. Recording of CCTV Systems was also done," the official added.

Mobile network jammers were installed at all the centres to prevent students from cheating during the exam by using mobile phones or any other electronic device.

"The latest 5G jammers were installed at all examination centres for the first time," the official explained.

The examination was held in Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

The exam was also conducted outside India in Manama, Doha, Dubai, Kathmandu, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, Singapore, Kuwait City, Kuala Lumpur, Lagos/Abuja, Colombo, Jakarta, Moscow, Ottawa, Port Louis, Bangkok, and Washington DC.

It was conducted in Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, and Oslo for the first time.

While the first edition of the exam was conducted in January-February, the second edition is scheduled in April. Based on the results of JEE-Mains Paper 1 and Paper 2, the candidates will be shortlisted to appear for the JEE-Advanced exam, which is a one-stop exam to get admission into the 23 premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). After both sessions of JEE (Main)-2024 Examination, the ranks of the candidates will be released taking into consideration the best of the two NTA Scores in accordance with the policy already made.

Six Inspectors transferred...

DPL Doda to R.I DPL Doda; and Inspector Amrit Katoch has been transferred from Police Station Bhadarwah and posted as Incharge DSB/MJC Doda.

Let us know...

submitted that it is important to have some data as to whether offences under this provision have occurred at all.

The top court then asked Malhotra if there was any single instance of conviction under this provision.

The lawyer replied that he did not have data regarding that.

The top court said the provision takes away the judicial discretion in the matter of quantum of sentence.

The bench then asked Venkataramani to try to get information and submit a short note on the issue.

"Is there any single instance where conviction has taken place. Has any conviction ever taken place? Can you use your good offices to find out any prosecution under this provision," the bench said.

Malhotra said the matter has been pending since 2019 and no response has been filed by the Union of India till date.

The matter has been posted for next hearing on May 14.

The plea had said the legislature cannot compel courts and inflict upon them the "dubious" and "unconscionable" duty of imposing a "preordained" death sentence.

"The legislature cannot make relevant circumstances irrelevant, depriving the courts of their legitimate jurisdiction to exercise discretion in not imposing death sentence in appropriate cases and compel them to shut their eyes to mitigating circumstances and inflict upon them the dubious and unconscionable duty of imposing a preordained sentence of death," the plea had said.

It also said that on different occasions when mandatory death penalty has been questioned, the apex court has struck down these provisions by holding it unconstitutional.

"As and when an occasion had arisen where the mandatory imposition of death penalty is called in question in different statutes, either this court by exercising its constitutional powers of judicial review has struck down those provisions by holding it to be unconstitutional and void or the legislature itself has amended those provisions by removing the mandatory imposition of death penalty," the plea had said.

It had also referred to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act which initially provided for mandatory death sentence and was amended in the year 2014 by the legislature itself and further provided for an option of awarding death sentence or any other imprisonment as specified in the Act.

Modi says India...

Long live Bharat-UAE friendship," Modi said at the event that began with national anthems of the two countries.

"Today's memory will be with me forever because I have come here to meet members of my family," he said.

"I have come here with a message of your brothers and sisters from over 140 crore Indians that India is proud of you," he said.

Recalling his first visit here in 2015, Modi said he was new to the central government at that time and it was the first UAE visit by any Indian prime minister in three decades.

"In ten years since then, it is my seventh visit to the UAE," Modi said. "I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you," he said.

Modi said he was fortunate to have been bestowed with the prestigious Order of Zayed, the highest civilian award of the UAE.

"It is an honour not just for me but for 140 crore Indians," he said.

The prime minister said the UAE is now India's third-largest trade partner and seventh-largest investor.

"Both countries are collaborating on ease of living and ease of doing business," he added.

"Today every single Indian's aim is to make India a developed nation by 2047. It's our India that is witnessing robust economic growth and it is our India which is leading the global charts on several fronts," Modi said.

"It is due to my confidence in the capability of every Indian that I have given a guarantee that in my third term, India will become the third largest economy in the world and Modi's guarantee means a guarantee to fulfil the guarantee," he added.

After his speech, Modi took the round of the stadium in an open vehicle to greet people who all waved at him enthusiastically.

Sheetal Devi of...

I was born and brought up in a very small village in Kashmir. My life changed when I came to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. I thought I could never be an archer. I would like to thank the Shrine Board, OGQ and the Archery Association of India for supporting me. I feel I can do anything with my legs, what people can do with their hands. It's my dream to win gold at the Paris 2024 Summer Paralympics Games and keep the Indian Tri-colour flying high," expressed an optimistic Sheetal Devi.

Muralitharan was presented with the first-ever International Icon award at the event. There could not have been a more deserving star than the Sri Lankan spinning legend, who took a stunning 800 Test wickets.

Cricket legend Rahul Dravid won the Coach of the Year award while the Indian cricket team bagged the honours of the National Team of the Year for its fine performance in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup where it finished runner-up behind Australia. Mohammed Shami bagged the honours for Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports) for his outstanding efforts in the World Cup among other events in 2023.

"I come from a place which lacked proper facilities and it continues to lack proper resources for a player to succeed. The awards that I have received are because of luck, determination and the support from my family and all of you. There are a lot of youngsters I have come across who have the talent and passion to make it big, but just don't have the right facilities. So, I feel the need to connect with such players and try and help them get the best facilities," stated Shami.

Tamil Nadu bagged the award for Best State for the Promotion of Sport. Udhayanidhi Stalin, Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Govt of Tamil Nadu, received the award. Tamil Nadu hosted the prestigious Hero Men's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy in 2023 and also conducted the Khelo India Youth Games recently, apart from taking up several initiatives to promote sports in the State. "I extend my sincere gratitude to The Hindu Group, Sportstar and jury members for recognising Tamil Nadu as the best State for promoting sports in India. One major reason for such recognition is our Honorable Chief Minister M. K. Stalin. He sees sports not merely as an extracurricular activity, but as an integral part of our character. Today I would like to extend my congratulations to the players of Maharashtra for securing first place in the recently conducted Khelo India Youth Games 2023, which was held in Tamil Nadu. The Sportstar Awards serve as a catalyst, propelling us to greater heights," Udhayanidhi said.

Legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, former India hockey captain M. M. Somaya, chess great Viswanathan Anand, Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, and Olympians Anjali Bhagwat and Aparna Papat are the members of the Sportstar Aces 2024 jury.

The awards ceremony in Mumbai was attended by the cr me de cr me de the sports world including jury members Gavaskar, Anand, Somaya, Anjali, Aparna, tennis legend Leander Paes, P. T. Usha, Viren Rasquinha, Joaquim Carvalho, Amol Muzumdar, Praveen Amre and Suma Sirur among others.

Full list of the winners:

- Men's Relay Team Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field)
- Parul Chaudhary Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field)
- Hardik Singh Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports)
- Mohammed Shami Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports)
- Vandana Katariya Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports)
- Satviksairaj Rankiredy & Chirag Shetty Sportsman of the Year (Individual)
- Rameshbabu Vaishali Sportswoman of the Year (Individual)
- Sift Kaur Samra Sportswoman of the Year (Individual)
- Sumit Antil Sportsman of the Year (Para Sports)
- Thulasimathi Murugesan Sportswoman of the Year (Parasports)
- Rahul Dravid Coach of the Year
- Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar Young Achiever of the Year (Male)
- Tilottama Sen Young Achiever of the Year (Female)
- Chandu Borde Lifetime Achievement Award
- Karnam Malleshwari Lifetime Achievement Award
- Neeraj Chopra Sportstar of the Year (Male)
- Sheetal Devi Sportstar of the Year (Female)
- India Men's Cricket Team National Team of the Year
- Saurashtra Cricket Team Club/State Team of the Year
- Sheetal Devi Moment of the Year
- Muttiah Muralitharan International Icon
- Tamil Nadu Best State for the Promotion of Sport
- NTPC Ltd Best PSU for the Promotion of Sport
- Tata Steel Ltd Best Corporate for the Promotion of Sport
- SRM Institute of Science and Technology Best University for the Promotion of Sport
- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports for Social Good
- Rohan Bopanna Ace of Aces Special Recognition Award

Asad gets addl...

the additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department shall also hold the charge of the post of Civil Aviation Commissioner, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department.

Bovine smuggler arrested, 10 bovines rescued

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against the bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police on Tuesday foiled bovine smuggling attempt, arrested bovine smuggler, rescued ten bovines and seized truck in the jurisdiction of Police Post Mansar.

A Police Party of Police Post Mansar headed by Incharge Police Post Mansar while performing vehicle checking duty at Naka Mansar, intercepted a truck bearing regd. No. JK02AW-3519 for checking. During checking of the vehicle, ten bovines were found laden inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission.

The bovine smuggler identified as Mohd. Qasim s/o Mohd. Yaqub r/o TalabTillo district Jammu has been arrested and the truck used for illegal transportation of bovines has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 44/2024 U/S 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

5 vehicles seizes for illegal mining

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Tightening noose against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized five vehicles in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and Police Station Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

A Police party of Police Station Bari Brahmana headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmana while performing patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area has seized two dumper bearing Nos. JK02CU-7607 and JK21G-7607 for illegal mining in the area.

A Police party of Police Post Supwal headed by Incharge Police Post Supwal along with Mining Department Samba has seized two Tractor Trolleys without registration No. for illegal mining in Basantar river bed, PhulpurSupwal.

A Police party of Police Post Goran headed by Incharge Police Post Goranwhile performing patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area has seized a tractor trolley bearing regd. No. JK21D-7479 for illegal mining.

The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further action.

Drug peddler nabbed with 500 grams of Cannabis

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Under the aegis of "Operation Sanjeevani" JKP in District Rajouri arrested a youth following a recovery of Cannabis like substance from his possession.

A team of police headed by SHO Rajouri intercepted a youth at Sailaane Bridge, Rajouri and recovered 23 Chalties of contraband cannabis like substance, weighing as much as 500 grams, from his possession following which he has been arrested.

The apprehended accused person has been identified as Sadam Hussain Shah S/O Muzaffer Hussain Shah, resident of Phalnee, Tehsil Budhal of District Rajouri. Subsequently a formal criminal case under FIR No. 57/2024 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Rajouri.

There is likelihood of more arrests in coming days as investigation moves on and unfolds the Forward & Backward linkages of this instant NDPS recovery.

Notably this is the third consecutive narcotics recovery during recent passed 72 hours by police team of PS Rajouri under "Operation Sanjeevani" aiming to destroy drug-trade syndicate and its support structures.

Pertinent to mention that JKP in District Rajouri has arrested dozens of narcotic peddlers in last couple of months as they were found involved in peddling of narcotics and has also detained multiple peddlers, the notorious ones, by invoking the scope of PIT-NDPS Act.