

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG calls for...

player in the overall growth of the nation. It has immense talent pool that will act as a main driving force in the future, he added.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has traveled far in the last 10 years and every region and sector have witnessed triumph, glory and laid the foundation for a promising future," the Lt Governor said.

Our economy is growing at unprecedented rate and we are confident of achieving the target of the world's 3rd largest economy by 2027. The effective on-ground implementation of people-centric policies will lead the nation in this Amrit Kaal, he further added.

"Bihar's brand ambassadors, young entrepreneurs, innovators and creative networks can further push cultural awakening and create a vibrant environment for Bihar's socio-economic growth," the Lt Governor said.

He also emphasized on developing a robust ecosystem of Religious, Archaeological and Cultural Tourism in Bihar.

The Lt Governor released the first edition of Bihar Discourse Journal and 'Fool Bahadur', a Magahi novel translated by Poet-Diplomat Abhay K.

Aditi Nandan, Curator, Grand Trunk Road Initiatives; senior officials of Government of India; team members of GTRI, experts, policymakers, and prominent personalities from diverse fields were present.

## Congress can't think...

you are Modi's family. Your dreams are Modi's resolution. That is why today I am talking about developed India and developed Chhattisgarh," he added.

A developed Chhattisgarh can be built with the empowerment of the poor, youth and women, he said.

The previous Congress government in Chhattisgarh had stalled the construction of houses for the poor but the new BJP government has expedited it, the PM said.

Referring to himself as the servant of the people, Modi said he had given 140 crore Indians a guarantee of his commitment and hard work.

Strong action was being taken against those who had looted the poor and the money recovered is being utilised for the betterment of citizens, he said.

Modi spoke about his government's welfare schemes under which people are getting free rations, medical treatment, affordable medicines, housing, piped water, gas connection and toilets.

"Ten years ago, Modi had given the guarantee that we will create an India as per the dreams of our ancestors. Today, look all around, a new India is being built just like the dreams that our ancestors had seen. Did anyone think 10 years ago that digital payments could be done even in villages? Had anyone ever thought that a son who had gone to work outside would be able to send money to his family in the village? Today it has become possible," he said.

Hitting out at the Congress, Modi referred to the statement by then PM Rajiv Gandhi about just 15 paise of every rupee being spent for development reaching the rightful beneficiary.

If the same situation prevailed today, one can imagine what would have happened to the nation, the PM said.

"In the last 10 years, the Centre transferred more than Rs 34 lakh crore into the bank accounts of citizens through Direct Benefit Transfer. Had the Congress been in power and had the 15 paise tradition continued, then Rs 29 lakh crore out of this Rs 34 lakh crore would have been embezzled by middlemen," he said.

Throwing light on initiatives to create health and education facilities as well as infrastructure like roads and rail lines, the PM said development starts and employment opportunities get created once corruption comes to an end.

Referring to the PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity scheme, which currently covers one crore households, Modi said his government strives to cut down electricity bills of consumers to zero.

The government will provide financial aid directly into bank accounts for setting up rooftop solar panels where 300 units will be made free and excess electricity produced will be bought back by the government, thereby creating additional income for citizens, he pointed out.

The government was transforming the "annadata" (food producer) into "urjadata" (power producer) by assisting farmers to set up small-scale solar plants on barren farmlands, Modi said.

The BJP government in Chhattisgarh, which took over in December last year, has begun fulfilling "guarantees" (poll promises), Modi added.

The BJP unseated the Congress in the 2023 Assembly polls, winning 54 seats in the 90-member House.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and senior BJP leaders were present at the main event held in the Indoor Stadium Budha Talab in Raipur.

## Former MLC among...

earlier this month. Shah, a resident of the Trehgam area in north Kashmir, said, "I have taken a conscious decision to join the BJP, given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts for development, peace and providing justice to the deprived sections of society."

As chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Pahari Tribal Movement for more than 25 years, he said they have been struggling for political, social and economic rights of the community that were finally fulfilled by the Modi government.

"The previous governments used us as a vote bank only but justice was done by the Modi government," Shah, who was seen in the prime minister's public rally in Jammu on February 20, said.

In a separate function, dozens of Pahari activists led by prominent National Conference leader Mohd Ayub Pahalwan from Kotranka in Rajouri joined the BJP in the presence of Raina.

"The joining of political stalwarts in the BJP is a stamp on the works done by the prime minister in Jammu and Kashmir," the BJP leader said.

Raina said the party's doors are open for everyone who wants to join and serve the people. "I want to assure the new entrants that their honour and position will be respected so that they can serve their people in a better way," he said.

## NIA attaches houses...

two-storey house, it said.

A total of 12 accused have been arrested and 15 have been charge-sheeted so far in the case, the NIA said. The case was registered following the recovery of a black bag and a large number of Indian currency notes of Rs 500 denomination during checking of vehicles in the Langate area of Handwara.

Preliminary questioning of the car's driver, Abdul Momin Peer, had led to revelations about the narco-terror nexus and prompted a detailed investigation by the NIA. During initial searches conducted at the houses of the accused, 21 kg of heroin and various other incriminating material, including large sums of cash, were seized, the NIA said.

## Northern Army Commander...

grid, Soldier-Citizen connect & Operational preparedness."

The commander appreciated the operational alacrity of the formations, it said.

During his visit, Lt Gen Kumar also visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the counter-infiltration grid and the ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the hinterland, officials said.

He exhorted all ranks to remain focused on operational preparedness and to continue working with utmost zeal and enthusiasm, they said.

The Army commander also held discussions with DGP Swain and senior officials of other agencies on the prevailing security situation and building synergy for future operations.

## Tendulkar meets J&K...

Lone's family and friends.

Last month, after his video went viral, Tendulkar said on X that he wanted to meet Lone. "And Amir has made the impossible possible. I am so touched watching this! Shows how much love and dedication he has for the game. Hope I get to meet him one day and get a jersey with his name. Well done for inspiring millions who are passionate about playing the sport," he posted on X.

**A K Choudhary...**

S.O.123 notification issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

"He shall hold the position of the Chairman, Public Service Commission, till he attains the age of sixty two years. His appointment shall take effect from the date he assumes the office," it added.

## Dulloo visits Mubarak...

R&B; DG, Budget; Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society; CEO, JSCL besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary went around different heritage buildings of the complex and took cognizance of the conservation works either done or being carried out there. He enquired about the subsequent plans of the society about adaptive reuse of the structures after their restoration.

Dulloo also asked about the timelines fixed for completion of each conservation and beautification work. He called for carrying out each work with due diligence as the task of heritage conservation is quite technical in nature.

He directed for restoring the original magnificence of the complex besides preserving its aesthetic appeal befitting its past glory. He went inside the renovated Darbar Hall and Dogra Museum besides other structures like Raja Ram Singh's and Raja Amar Singh Palaces where work is going on.

He also examined other heritage structures like Pink Hall, Gole Ghar, Sheesh Mahal, Maharani Charak Mahal, Guleri Mahal and other internal structures. He called for making a robust plan for their effective conservation and reuse taking the architecture, place and space of each structure into consideration.

During this visit the Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta highlighted the significance of this heritage complex in promotion of local art and culture. He also informed about the plans for adaptive reuse of the conserved structures besides the other aspects of this mega project.

The Executive Director, MMJHS, Deepika Sharma gave the overall introduction about the aims and objectives of conservation of this complex. She detailed out the works carried out so far, the requirement of funds and the expenditure made till date.

She also explained the future reuse plans for different structures to be used as display galleries, museums, library and cultural centres. Besides she threw light on other aspects of restoration works to be taken-up in the times to come.

The CEO, JSCL, Rahul Yadav provided details of projects carried out under Smart City Mission. He mentioned that the beautification projects like illumination of the completed projects had been done by the JSCL besides the ongoing work on cafeteria is being done by the company itself.

It was given out that in 2005, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex was declared as a protected monument and in 2006, Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society (MMJHS) was constituted to takeover this complex for its protection, preservation, maintenance and restoration works.

It was further given out that the first vision document for its conservation was prepared by INTACH in the year 2008 and a comprehensive master plan was later prepared and approved in 2019.

Primarily, the complex is zoned out in 06 zones including Public Zone, Knowledge Centre, Interpretation & Collection Galleries, Lifestyle, Experiential Spaces and Crafts Bazaar.

It was also revealed that under this Master Plan amount of Rs144.15 Cr is to be spent on different sub-projects of this heritage complex. It was made out that work on few sub-projects has been completed and the work on other sub-projects is apace with remaining of works to be taken-up shortly for their completion on time.

## Voters have right...

distribution of cash and freebies. National Payments Corporation of India too has been tasked to monitor online transactions.

To a query on 'fake news,' he said, today fake news is running as you mentioned that election dates have been announced. This fake news has, however, been countered within half an hour and it was made amply clear that it was fake.

A majority of political parties have sought single phase polls. After holding meetings with political parties during the last two days, Rajiv Kumar said "a majority of parties informed him that many parties have commenced parking of funds for distribution to voters."

"We met various political parties both national like the BJP, INC and state parties like the AIADMK, DMK. A majority of their demands were single phase elections, curb on distribution of money and freebies," he said.

The parties also sought action to prevent 'voter impersonation,' distribution of liquor and transfer of money through online mode.

During past elections in Tamil Nadu, parties have often accused each other of 'inducing' voters by distributing cash and gifts.

Kumar today said most of the political parties in Tamil Nadu have urged the EC to conduct the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in single phase in the state.

At the end of his two-day visit to Tamil Nadu to review poll-preparedness, he said the Election Commission (EC) would come down heavily on those officials who do not ensure level playing field to parties as "in a democracy, officials should be absolutely impartial."

He said, "most of the political parties want single phase polling and demanded steps to curtail use of money power during the elections.

They also sought disqualification of candidates who are found distributing cash during the elections or any inducement."

"Process wise, they (political parties) have said that the bureaucratic machinery needs to be impartial. They need to provide a level playing field so that every candidate is treated equally."

Kumar, who was flanked by senior EC officials including Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo, said the political parties suggested that the permission to poll rallies be given on 'equal footing' and not be 'discriminated.'

"Parties demanded that CCTV cameras be installed at the most sensitive booths and strong action against the impersonation during voting," he added.

According to EC, Tamil Nadu is home to 6.19 crore voters, of which there are 3.15 crore women and 3.04 crore men. There are 1.08 crore people in the age group of 20 to 29 years and first time voters between the age group of 18 and 19 years are 9.18 lakh.

Referring to the distribution of money or liquor to woo voters, Kumar said the EC has come up with a mobile app eVIGIL (Citizens Be Vigilant), which allows a user to click a picture of any incident like money distribution and assured that within 100 minutes of receiving the complaint and verifying it, action would be taken against them.

Kumar who met the top officials of the enforcement agencies including representatives from State Police, Excise department during the second day of his visit to Tamil Nadu said he has instructed them to be vigil and ensure that the elections are 'inducement free'.

"As many as 145 check posts will be functional and we have asked them (enforcement agencies) to keep very strict vigil on inter-state borders. We have asked them to check twice and every one has been directed to take extremely stringent action if there is any case of distribution of money or anything," he said.

"We want to have absolutely zero tolerance towards any misuse of money," Kumar said and added that the transfer of cash to ATMs by banks should be completed before 5pm and there should not be any movement of such vans after the stipulated time period.

All the airports which are under the CISF personnel would be under strict watch all the time and even Coast Guard would be keeping a strong watch on the smuggling.

Later, responding to a query on the demand by political parties for single phase polling, Kumar remained non-committal and said, "As regards to the single phase polling, we have taken their demand. Whenever we decide our schedule, we will keep that in mind. We can commit (now). We will tell the press first."

On monitoring of the fund transfers through online mode, he said, "we will keep a strong watch. I cannot tell you how we will monitor it. The banks will be keeping a watch on the accounts from where the money is going to multiple accounts. Systems have already been put into place. The services of National Payments Corporation of India will also be roped in to keep a watch."

Regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines and VV PAT (Voter-verified paper audit trail), he said, "EVMS have been used in the country for 40 years while VVPAT has also been used in the last elections. There is no new system. It is exactly the same way the EVMS and VVPAT will be used, except with technological upgradations.."

## Drug peddler arrested; contraband substances recovered

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

KULGAM: Police on Saturday arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substances from his possession.

A Police party headed by IC PP Mirbazar during patrolling at Furrah near Railway Bridge, intercepted a suspicious person carrying nylon bag. He has been identified as Rizwan Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Ayoub Bhat resident of Furrah. During search, officers were able to recover 40 grams of Charas & 2.2 Kgs of Poppy Straw from his possession.

Regarding the incident, a case vide FIR No. 50/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been initiated.

## 45 bovines rescued, 2 smugglers nabbed

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI/SAMBA: Reasi police on Saturday foiled bovine smuggling at Moori Check Post during checking and rescued 16 bovines animal from a truck bearing Registration No. JK02DD1889 at Moori Check Post which hit the barricade and tried to run away from spot. It was stopped by police party while the driver managed to flee away from the spot taking advantage of darkness. The search of the accused person is initiated.

FIR No 60/2024 under sections 188 IPC, 11 1(a) PC Act, 2/3 PDP Act was registered at Police Station Katra, vehicle seized and investigation initiated to unearth the forward and backward linkages.

Samba Police also foiled two bovine smuggling attempts, arrested two bovine smugglers, rescued twenty nine bovines and seized two vehicles in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba.

A Police team of Police Station Samba while performing vehicle checking duty at Nud naka, signalled to stop a truck bearing registration No JK02BR-2304 coming from Samba towards Udhampur via Mansar side for checking. But the driver of the vehicle accelerated the speed in order to flee away from the spot and hit the vehicle with naka road barrier. The alert cops successfully intercepted the vehicle and during checking fourteen bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. However, driver of the vehicle managed to escape from the spot taking advantage of the darkness. All the fourteen bovines have been rescued and the vehicle has been seized.

A case FIR No FIR No. 49/2024 U/S 188 IPC 11 PCA Act 3 PDPP Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

Similarly, a Police party of Police Post Mansar during vehicle checking duty at Mansar naka, signalled to stop a truck bearing registration No JK03E-0218 coming from Samba side for checking. During checking of the vehicle, fifteen bovines were found laden inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the fifteen bovines have been rescued and the vehicle has been seized.

The bovine smugglers identified as Mohd Rohit S/o Mohd Iqbal R/o Pernote tehsil and district Ramban and Murad Ali S/o Muneer Ahmed R/o Bali Charana Satwari district Jammu have been arrested and the truck used for illegal transportation of bovines has also been seized.

A case FIR No FIR No. 50/2024 U/S 188 IPC 11 PCA ACT, has been registered at Police Post Mansar and investigation started.



## Excavator among 7 vehicles seized for illegal mining

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA/SURANKOTE: Continuing its drive against illegal mining in the district, Samba Police seized five vehicles including one excavator in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal and Police Station Samba which were being used for illegal mining/transportation of the construction material. A Police party of Police Station Ghagwal headed by SHO PS Ghagwal while performing patrolling duty in the area has seized one JCB bearing regd. No. JK21F-8073, two tippers bearing regd. Nos JK21A-4548, JK08H-0461 and one dumper bearing regd. No. JK21J-9675 for illegal mining/transportation of construction material. Similarly, a Police party of Police Post Supwal led by SHO PS Samba and Incharge Police Post Supwal during surprise naka at Supwal has seized one dumper bearing regd. No. JK08K-5812 for illegal mining/transportation in the area. The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further action. Surankote Police took stringent measures to curb the unauthorized extraction of resources. During random checks, the police team, led by SHO Surankote, seized two vehicles engaged in illegal mining operations. In a commendable surprise operation, orchestrated by Hamid Bandyay DYSP PC Surankote and Jnspr Mukhtiar Ali, SHO PS Surankote, a Dumper (Registration No. JK12A 2185) and a JCB Polain Machine Excavator with Engine serial number 84359843 were apprehended at Lathoung, Surankote.



## Field trip to Gharana wetland organized by DES, JU

JAMMU: Department of Environmental Sciences (DES), University of Jammu (JU) organized a one-day field trip to Gharana wetland Jammu.

The purpose of the trip was to acquaint the students with different varieties of resident and migratory birds visiting the area during winter and to provide them with hands-on training on various monitoring techniques to study the water quality and biological aspects of the wetlands.

Some of the birds seen by the students included flocks of bar-headed Geese, northern pintails, northern shovellers, white-breasted ibis, herons, cormorants, coots, and water hens, to name a few. Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head, DES said that such field trips are essential for students to obtain practical knowledge of the subject which complements the theoretical knowledge gained during classroom teaching.

Ashish Mahajan, Range Officer Wetlands, Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of J&K interacted with the students and briefed them about various conservation measures adopted by the Department of Wildlife for the management of Gharana wetland. The students also visited the Suchetgarh Border. A total of 25 students along with the faculty members, participated in this educational trip.



## Kishtwar Idol Season 2.0 hits a high note at TRC Mughal Maidan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

KISHTWAR: After the successful ground auditions at TRC Kishtwar and GHS Drabshalla, Kishtwar Idol Season 2, led by Deputy Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav, continued its vibrant talent hunt at TRC Mughalmaidan, today.

Despite challenging weather conditions, 33 enthusiastic singers from Block Mughalmaidan showcased their musical prowess, impressing judges including Dy SP DAR Sajjad Khan, Music Master Sanjeev Sharma, Veteran Singer Farooq Bakshi, and Cultural Incharge Awani Sen. Five standout performers earned their spot in the next round, set to be a captivating Theatre audition at District HQ Kishtwar. Dr Kuldeep Kumar, the Nodal officer for Kishtwar Idol 2.0, announced that the upcoming ground audition would be held at GHSS Sarthal on Monday, February 26, 2024, encouraging singers of Trigam and Sarthal area to seize the opportunity and pursue their musical dreams.