

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! PM virtually lays...

District Hospital Budgam; 50 Bedded Critical Care Block at GMC Baramulla, GMC Rajouri, GMC Kathua, SKIMS Benina and District Hospital Kulgam.

The Critical Care Blocks under COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package Phase-II (ECRP-II) to be constructed at Rs 142.5 crore are 50-bedded Critical Care Blocks each at District Hospitals Pulwama, Kupwara, Reasi, Shopian, Poonch and PHC Sonamarg, Ganderbal.

The critical care units would provide services of emergency, surgical and intensive care to the patients, PTI quoted an official saying.

Most of the critical care services are confined to tertiary care level with limited access to secondary care and referral transport systems.

The top five causes of mortality - coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, diarrhoeal diseases and neonatal disorders - shall be managed timely at the level of these units itself, the official said, adding it will not only reduce the burden on tertiary care facilities but will also reduce the out of pocket expenses significantly, the official said.

The COVID pandemic has highlighted the need for critical care facilities, especially at the level of the districts. To augment the capacity of the district for assured treatment and management of patients with infectious diseases or critical illnesses by creating critical care hospital blocks or wings at district hospitals and medical colleges, according to the official.

He said the current architecture of the public hospitals is not equipped fully to handle the dual burden of meeting critical care needs and maintaining essential services as was seen during the two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many hospital buildings, especially in the districts, do not have provision for segregating a part of the building as an infectious disease treatment blocks, the official said.

Modi ended politics...

saffron party has never considered elections as a means of gaining power.

"We have accepted elections as a festival of democracy, considering it a medium to reach out to people with our principles and ideology. When we were in power, we considered the elections as a medium to give people the account of our achievements," he said.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir; north-east and Naxal-hit areas, Shah said there has been a 70 per cent decline in violence in these areas, and deaths caused due to terrorism, insurgency and left-wing extremism have reduced by 72 per cent.

Theatres have opened in Kashmir after 30 years and the Valley has become 'jewel of India'. "Two crore tourists from the country and world have visited Kashmir and enjoyed its beauty in a peaceful atmosphere," he said.

"Terrorism, Naxalism and extremism are gasping for breath and they will find it hard to raise their head after one more mandate," he said.

The BJP government at the Centre brought 60 crore poor people into the mainstream by providing them with basic amenities like houses, toilets and tap water.

Under the Modi government, the country has come out of collective inferiority complex and the respect for India's passport has increased, he said.

"After you gave a chance to Modi in 2014, the respect of the country has grown across the world. Seeing the Indian passport, people overseas now ask have you come from Modi ka Bharat?". This is the change that has come in the world for India

in the last 10 years," he said.

Attacking the Congress, he said, "If we build parliament (building), they say what is the need for it."

The Congress has been "launching" Rahul Gandhi repeatedly since 20 years, he said.

"They launch Rahul Gandhi with a new look but this rocket doesn't launch. Instead, it backfires every time. They again come out with the same rocket," Shah said, adding that there is "Narendra Modi who didn't face even a single accusation", he asserted.

The Union minister claimed that a Congress MP said that the country should be divided into North and South.

"What has happened to the party of leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Azad and Mahatma Gandhi? It even couldn't distance itself from such statements. How can you say such a thing? I assure you that nobody can dare do this as there is Narendra Modi government," Shah said.

Earlier in the day, Shah spoke to BJP workers in Gwalior and Khajuraho as part of his party's preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

In Gwalior, he asked the BJP workers to strive for polling of 370 additional votes in each booth, compared to the last general polls, to achieve the party's seat target in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Shah addressed nearly 400 leaders and workers of the booth management committee of Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior-Chambal cluster comprising four Lok Sabha seats - Morena, Bhind, Guna and Gwalior.

Each vote counts for the party, Shah said as he asked the workers to ensure polling of additional 370 votes in each booth, compared to the last elections, a local BJP leader, who attended the meeting, quoted the minister as saying.

Addressing about 23,000 booth-level BJP workers at Khajuraho, Shah urged them to resolve to give the Modi government a third term at the Centre with more than 400 seats, asserting that the coming elections were about making India a superpower and the world's third-largest economy.

Shah said the Congress during its 10-year tenure (between 2004 and 2014) had indulged in scams worth Rs 12 lakh crore.

Hailing the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya under the Modi government, Shah said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi used to take swipes at him by saying the saffron party claims it will build the temple but will not give people the date of construction.

Listing out achievements of the party, Shah said the BJP regime at the Centre has ensured 5 kg of free ration monthly to more than 80 crore poor people, provided tapped water to 14 crore families, and given Rs 6,000 annual assistance to 11 crore farmers. The next five years will be the time to lay the foundation of a "great Bharat", he said.

Kashmir is, was...

challenges that this nation faces together, and fight those evils that want to divide us," he said.

Claiming that the Constitution is under threat today and that everyone needs to work together to ensure that it remains strong, the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said, "If we do not do that, we will regret it in the days to come. Like we regret today this machine (EVMs), that came many many years ago."

"Today we don't trust this machine because it is doctored and people who vote, they don't see their vote there. I hope the Election Commission will take due regard to this and see to it that people are given a true election, whatever people

want, that should be given to them. I hope it happens. Otherwise time will come when there is nothing like a Constitution, nothing like the diversity that we have," he added.

In his address, CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said that efforts are on to change the secular democratic character of India into a fascist "Hindutva Rashtra" character espoused by the RSS, whose society will be based on 'Manusmriti' and on the basis of caste oppression and hierarchies.

"We had left them behind in history when we adopted this Constitution, they (BJP) are now trying to take us back into the darkness of history, while we want to take India into the brightness of the future. So this is a battle between those who want to take India backwards and those who want to take India forward," he added.

Yechury alleged that the central government and the Prime Minister are bent on destroying the nation and the Constitution and they should be removed from office and defeated. "To save India therefore, we will have to convert this Amrit Kaal as the Amrit Kaal of the people, all Indian patriots have to join together and will have to fight to restore -- our country, our character, our pride and our individuality and equality, with everybody else," he added.

Iran's surgical strike...

would resolve some "misunderstandings" very soon. He said that both the countries also agreed to fight terrorism in their respective areas and solve each other's problems. However, this latest infiltration into the Pakistani border is showing a completely opposite attitude to his statement.

Talks going on...

assembly, municipal and local bodies elections and take development and tourism sector to new heights and make J&K prosperous.

The Congress leader alleged that BJP tried its best to frighten the INDIA bloc partners before the Lok Sabha elections to disintegrate the united opposition.

"The INDIA alliance is getting stronger with each passing day and we are sure that Congress and its alliance partners will form the next government at the Centre," he said.

Asked to comment on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah's statement that his party will fight the elections on its own strength, Wani said, "We will also fight the elections on our own strength. And where they will put up their candidates, we will support them. The alliance partners will not escape under the pressure of the BJP and we will fight together in the coming Lok Sabha polls."

Welcoming the new entrants, he said the party is getting stronger as people in large numbers are joining the party from every nook and corner.

Wani reiterated his party's commitment to upholding the values of democracy, justice, and equality, and called on all supporters to join hands in building a better future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rusted grenade found...

was noticed at Zargar Mohalla by a local resident, who immediately informed the police. Qayoom said a bomb disposal squad was summoned and the HE-36 hand grenade was safely removed from the scene.

"The grenade is in a rusty condition, indicating that it was lying there for a very long time. There was some construction work undertaken about four to five months ago and the debris was dumped here. Prima facie, it appears that the device was present in the debris and was exposed due to recent rains," the SSP said.

Satyakul Achievers Institution gives farewell to senior students



Dignitaries along with management during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: To bid adieu to the senior most class of Satyakul Achievers Institution, Katra a farewell party was organized in the auditorium, spiritual growth centre SMVD on Sunday.

Mohita Sharma (SSP Reasi) was the chief guest while Vipin Chandran (ASP Katra), Rohit Dubey (Dist. President BJP), Shashi Gupta (Chairman Municipality Katra) and Ritu Thakur (President, Moreha Reasi BJP) were the guests.

Simran Verma and Kavi Verma won the title of Ms. and Mr. Satyakul Achievers' where as Simran Sharma and Gourav Singh grabbed the title of Ms. and Mr. Talented. The students enjoyed a lot and departed from Institution with heavy hearts.

ADGP Jammu flags off students for Bharat Darshan to Bengaluru



ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain flagging off tour.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, flagged off a group of enthusiastic students from Poonch and Kathua district respectively for a captivating Bharat Darshan tour to Bengaluru. The initiative aims to foster cultural exchange, instil a spirit of unity, and provide exposure to the rich heritage of our country.

A total of 62, students, including 34 from Poonch and 28 from Kathua districts, along with three dedicated caretakers embarked on this transformative journey, representing the vibrant diversity and cultural richness of J&K.

This initiative is a testament to the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police towards nurturing the youth and providing them with holistic development opportunities.

During the Bharat Darshan tour, the students will have the opportunity to explore the historical landmarks, cultural sites, and technological hubs of Bengaluru. Through interactive sessions, educational visits, and cultural interactions, they will gain insights into the cultural tapestry and technological advancements of India.

ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain emphasized the significance of such initiatives in nurturing the spirit of exploration among the youth. He expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders involved in organizing and supporting this Bharat Darshan tour.

This initiative underscores the Jammu and Kashmir Police's commitment to empowering the youth and providing them with platforms to broaden their horizons.

The officers who were present during the flag off ceremony were SSP Jammu, SP Hqrs, SO to ADGP JZ, AO of ZPHQ, Dy. SP DAR Jammu and other Police officers.

PCPG meeting organized at Sari Village

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SP Rural Brijesh Sharma along with SDPO Domana Muddasir Hussain, SHO Police Station Domana Inspr Arun Sharma, In-charge Police Post Sandwan PSI Saddam Hussain and In-charge Police Post Pounichak PSI Vijay Kumar conducted a PCPG meeting at Sari Village in the jurisdiction of PP Pouni Chak. Various Sarpanches, Panches, ex-sarpanches/panches and other prominent persons of the area participated in the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding drug-menace, theft and other related issues. SP Rural Jammu also briefed them to inform the near-

by Police Station/Police Post if any information regarding drug trafficking is received to them.

SP Rural Jammu flanked by SDPO Domana, SHO PS Domana, I/C PP Sandwan and I/C PP Pounichak gave a patient hearing to the public and assured them of addressing the genuine demands in shortest possible time. Also people were encouraged to cooperate with Police and Administration in maintaining Law & Order in their area of responsibility as well as in identifying Anti-Social Elements who are indulging in Drugs Peddling, Illicit liquor brewing, Bovine smuggling etc.

CRIME REPORT

10 drug peddlers arrested, contraband seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In continuation of its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Sunday have arrested three drug peddlers in Sopore and recovered Contraband substances from their possession.

A Police spokesperson said, "On a specific information, a police party of Police Station Sopore alongwith 22 RR headed by SHO PS Sopore Insp. Nissar Ahmad under the supervision of SDPO Sopore Shri. Sarfaraz Bashir at a checkpoint established at Mahrajpora Sopore apprehended three drug persons."

"During their personal search,1700 grams of contraband charas like substances were recovered from their possession", he said.

"The accused persons were identified as Showkat Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Rashid Bhat, resident of Neharpura Sopore; Firdous Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohiudin Bhat, resident of Mazbugh Sopore and Firdous Ahmad Dar, son of Nazir Ahmad Dar R/O Mahrajpora Sopore. They have been arrested and shifted to PS Sopore where they remain in custody."

He said that accordingly, case FIR No. 36 of 2024 under sections 8/20 of NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Sopore & investigation has been initiated.

Police also arrested 07 drug peddlers and recovered Contraband/ psychotropic substances from their possession in Sopore, Ganderbal & Baramulla.

In Sopore, a police party of Police Post Watergam headed by Incharge PP Watergam under the supervision of SDPO Rafiabab and SHO PS Dangiwaacha at a checkpoint established at Seelo-Behrampora bridge, intercepted a truck bearing registration No. JK03E-4421 with 03 persons onboard. They have been identified as Naseer Ahmad Sheikh son of Muhammad Jamal Sheikh, Muhammad Amin Sheikh son of Farooq Ahmad Sheikh and Danish Manzoor Bhat son of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat all residents of Seelo Sopore. During search of the vehicle, 70 bottles of Codeine Phosphate were recovered. They have been arrested and shifted to PS Dangiwaacha where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Moreover, on a specific information, a police party of Police Station Sopore alongwith 22 RR headed by SHO PS Sopore under the supervision of SDPO Sopore at a checkpoint established at Mahrajpora Sopore apprehended 03 drug peddlers. They have been identified as Showkat Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Rashid Bhat resident of Neharpura Sopore, Firdous Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Mohiudin Bhat resident of Mazbugh Sopore and Firdous Ahmad Dar son of Nazir Ahmad Dar resident of Mahrajpora Sopore. During their personal search, 1700 grams of charas like contraband substances were recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to PS Sopore where they remain in custody.

In Ganderbal, Police Post Shadipora received an information through reliable sources that one person namely Manzoor Ahmad Bhat@ Setha son of Late Gh Mohd Bhat resident of Batvina has hoarded banned drugs in his residential house. Acting swiftly, a Police Party led by Incharge Police Post Shadipora under the supervision of Shri Gh Hassan-JKPS Hqrs Ganderbal raided the spot. During search, 10 Strips of banned drugs (SpasmoProxyvon-Plus) were recovered from the vehicle (Scorpio) bearing Registration No. JK16-0901 belonging to the accused person. Vehicle used in the commission of the crime was also seized. However, the accused managed to escape from the spot and efforts are on to effect his arrest.

In Baramulla, a police party headed by SHO PS Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Stadium Colony Baramulla intercepted a suspicious person who on seeing the police party tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During search, officer was able to recover 250 grams of Charas like contraband substance from his possession. He has been identified as Mubashir Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Mohd resident of Najibhat Wagoora. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remains in custody.

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

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

7 vehicles including two excavators seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Tightening noose against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized seven vehicles including two excavators in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh and Police Station Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

A police party of Police Station Ramgarh headed by SHO PS Ramgarh while performing patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area has seized two JCBs without registration Nos. and two tractor trolleys bearing regd. No.JK21B 6363 and other without regd. No. for illegal mining/transportation of construction materials in the area.

Similarly, Police teams headed by Incharge Police Post Goran and Incharge Police Post RA Talli while performing patrolling duty in its jurisdictional areas have seized two Tractor Trolleys without registration Nos. and one dumper bearing regd. No. JK21E-7222 respectively for illegal mining/transportation of construction materials.

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

Illicit diesel recovered, accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: In a significant crackdown on illegal activities, Police in Sopore recovered illicit diesel from village Chatoosa in the jurisdiction of Police Station Dangiwaacha and arrested accused person involved in the commission of crime.

Police Station Dangiwaacha received a specific information regarding the transportation of an illicit diesel. Accordingly, a police party of headed by SHO Dangiwaacha conducted raid at specific location in village Chatoosa. During raid, police party recovered six barrels of illicit diesel approximately 750 litres from the spot. The accused person involved in the commission of crime has been identified as Babar Shams Baba son of Shams ud Din Baba resident of Jalal Abad Sopore. He has been arrested and shifted to PS where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 11/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Dangiwaacha and investigation has been initiated.

Police urge the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities or illegal practices they come across. Such information can be crucial in curbing criminal activities and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all.

Narco smuggler nabbed with 1.5 gms heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police on Sunday nabbed one drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba and recovered 1.5 grams approximately heroin (chitta) like narcotic substance from his possession.

A Police party of Police Post Supwal headed by Incharge Police Post Supwal while performing vehicle checking duty during surprise naka point at Barian Supwal, intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration No Jk21A-9567 for checking which was coming from Vijaypur side and moving towards Samba side.

During checking, police recovered 1.5 grams approximately heroin (chitta) like narcotic substance from the possession of motorcyclists. The arrested drug peddler has been identified as Annol Padha S/o Raj Pal Padha R/o Diani Tehsil and district Samba.

A case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act has been registered against him at Police Station Samba and further investigation is underway.

Rs 5 lakh penalty imposed on construction company for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Over Rs 5 lakh penalty was imposed on construction company for illegal mining in Sahar Khad near local Bridge by using heavy Machinery.



A Chain Machine and Dumper of the Construction Company were fined by the District Mineral Officer Kathua Rajinder Singh.

It was observed that the excavator engaged by executing agency of NHA1 was excavating River Bed Material (RBM) downstream Sahar Khad near National Highway bridge without obtaining permission required under rules.

On Spot assessment revealed that a total of 2200 MT of RBM has been raised from the river bed and used in widening work of National highway After taking the custody of machinery, the DMO called police party on the spot and both the excavator and dumper were handed over to Incharge of police team after necessary formalities required under the extant rules of the department.

The District Mineral Officer informed that the action was initiated keeping in view the safety of bridge of National highway where mining is totally banned and also in order to save the precious mineral.