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the business rules which are likely to be vetted by the MHA. After the erstwhile state was downgraded into two UTs in 2019, the law and order is under the direct control of the central government. Abdullah also discussed some changes in the industrial and tourism policies in order to incentivise manufacturing sector and bring more tourists.

Maha Kumbh: Large...

Nishant Abhishek, who travelled from Mumbai, added, "We've heard that apart from Prayagraj, Kashi and Ayodhya are also witnessing heavy crowds. But this is a rare opportunity to visit all the three places during Maha Kumbh. We will also go to Ayodhya."

ACP (Traffic) Shailendra Singh said that a significant number of devotees are heading towards Varanasi and Ayodhya after their visit to the Maha Kumbh. ADCP (Traffic) Kuldeep Singh said that compared to the 2019 Kumbh, the crowd this time is much larger even on regular days, leading to frequent traffic congestion.

Due to the heavy rush outside the Prayagraj railway station, the Northern Railway's Lucknow division has temporarily closed it for passenger movement from 1:30 pm on February 9 to midnight on February 14, an official statement said.

However, eight other railway stations in the Maha Kumbh area continue to operate regular and special trains.

As per government figures, over 44 crore devotees have taken a dip at the Triveni Sangam till February 9. On February 10, by 10 am, over 63 lakh devotees had performed the ritual bath.

On key bathing days, the footfall has been record-breaking. On January 13 (Paush Purnima), it was 1.70 crore while on January 14 (Makar Sankranti) it was 3.50 crore, and 7.64 crore (highest so far) took dip in the Sangam on Mauni Amavasya.

With an average of 1.44 crore people taking a dip daily, authorities are managing an unprecedented surge of pilgrims in the holy city.

Over 1.02 crore people have taken holy dip in the Sangam till 4 pm, which included over 10 lakh Kalpwasis and 91.94 lakh pilgrims. The total number of devotees taking dip in the Sangam till date since the start of the Kumbh Mela has crossed 44 crore.

In Varanasi, a large number of devotees returning from the Maha Kumbh are arriving to visit the Kashi Vishwanath temple, leading to massive crowds across the city.

Due to the heavy rush, authorities have imposed restrictions on the movement of four-wheelers in several areas, and vehicles from outside the city are being halted at designated parking zones on the outskirts, officials said.

District and police officials are conducting regular patrols, while CCTV cameras and drones are being used to monitor sensitive and crowded areas, said DCP (Kashi Zone) Gaurav Banswal.

Multiple 'rain baseras' (temporary shelters) have been set up across the city for visiting pilgrims, he added.

DCP (Varuna Zone) Chandrakant Meena said that traffic diversions have been implemented at key locations to manage congestion.

External vehicles are being stopped outside the city, with parking facilities arranged on all major routes leading to Varanasi.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple administration has deployed additional staff to manage the surge of devotees.

Special arrangements for healthcare and queue management have been made to ensure a smooth darshan experience, officials said.

According to temple authorities, around four to six lakh devotees are visiting the Kashi Vishwanath temple daily amid the ongoing rush.

In Ayodhya also, the streets leading to the Lord Ram temple and Hanumangarhi are packed. Officials are managing the crowd and restrictions have been imposed on traffic movement in the city.

All the roads leading to the temple town from Lucknow, Sultanpur, Raebareli, Gorakhpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Azamgarh are congested with traffic jams to several kilometers. Ayodhya and its adjoining town Faizabad are packed with crowds.

Officials posted at different barricades on six national highways connecting Ayodhya told PTI that they are restricting the traffic from about 20 kilometres away from the temple town.

V N Arora, a retired principal of Ayodhya's Saket degree college said, "It took me about eight hours to reach Faizabad from Lucknow. Fortunately, I was aware of village roads that lead to Faizabad, so I took village roads to reach Faizabad from Barabanki."

"Because of the long queues of devotees on Ram Path, barricades have been placed on the dividers and link roads, blocking the way. Crossing the road is not allowed under any circumstances. As school buses, e-buses, and autos are not operating, students studying in Ayodhya city have been unable to attend schools and colleges for 45 days," said Jitendra Gupta, a resident of the Raiganj area of Ayodhya.

A nearly two-kilometer-long queue was formed since morning to visit Hanuman Garhi and the Ram Temple on the Ram Path.

The police administration has barricaded the routes leading to the Ram Path through the alleys and along the divider in the middle, halting movement.

Ayodhya Circle Officer Ashutosh Tiwari said this arrangement has been made for the safety of devotees and the local residents.

The system will return to normalcy only when the crowd pressure decreases, he added.

Modi tells students...

pressured by exams. Modi, however, asked them to challenge themselves and always try to do better than their previous results.

He emphasised on the need for nutrition and meditation.

Speaking on the issue of leadership, he said people take cue from the conduct of leaders and speeches alone do not help.

Well-known personalities like actor Deepika Padukone, boxer MC Mary Kom and spiritual leader Sadhguru have also shared their experiences and knowledge with students on key aspects of life and learning in different episodes of Pariksha Pe Charcha this year.

Nitish Rajora assumes...

each section of the department from the concerned officers. He expressed hope that all the employees would deliver their assigned services with utmost efficacy and proficiency while assuring complete support to them regarding their issues and concerns. He emphasised the need for further streamlining the social media platforms with the advanced technological innovations keeping pace with the emerging media trends.

The Director highlighted the significance of timely dissemination of accurate and objective information to the public, fostering transparency and enhancing communication channels between the government and the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

The officers, present on the occasion, reaffirmed their commitment towards performing their assigned tasks with added zeal and zest.

Joint Director Headquarters, Vivek Puri, Deputy Director PR/AV, Deepak Dubey, Deputy Director Central, Sunil Kumar and other senior officers and officials were present.

GOC reviews 'hostile...

cordoned off lower Chanan, Sair, Sanai forest, Chiti Bhati and Fazalabad in Surankote, Darai forest and adjoining areas in Mendhar, and Khokhar Mohalla, Kandi and Gallutta in Gursai. The search operations were underway when last reports were received.

CS directs for...

disaster prone areas on both the routes so that no utilities including tents are pitched in such areas. He directed the DMRR&R department to coordinate with the concerned district administrations regarding framing of SoPs for ensuring safe



CS Atal Dulloo chairing 16th HLC meet of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

yatra for the pilgrims.

He asked the concerned Deputy Commissioners to facilitate all the service providers so that the facilities created at each location are appropriate and sufficient for both the devotees and facilitators. He advised them to work in coordina-

tion and use the work window efficiently so that every facility is made ready by June this year. He enquired from each department and Deputy Commissioner about their role and responsibilities. He stressed on designating a nodal officer by each department to look after finalisation of arrangements to be made for smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The Chief Secretary also took stock of the budget requirements of all the departments to carry out the necessary works and procurements to be made for yatra. He asked the PDD for completing the job of under-grounding the HT/LT lines and anti-freezing pipeline system by the Jal Shakti Department. He also emphasised upon them to make a traffic plan so that there are no traffic snarls and people do not face any hurdles while commuting. He enjoined upon the Police Department to deploy their personnel in sufficient numbers for facilitating the yatra. Other issued which came up for discussion was deployment of adequate manpower by the Health Department for making the base hospitals functional besides other health facilities enroute. He further asked them to initiate the process of inviting manpower from outside as per the practice in vogue.

The need for ensuring only RFID registered pilgrims having valid health certificates was discussed during the meeting. It was also enjoined upon the IMD to send daily weather updates to the registered pilgrims so that they can move accordingly.

Besides, proper sanitation by RDD and H&UDD in their respective areas was deliberated upon. Both the departments were advised to ensure requisite number of toilets/baths are established enroute the cave shrine besides availability of uninterrupted water supply and paraphernalia there. They were directed to install the dustbins and deployment of manpower for cleanliness purposes all across the transit camps, holding areas and along the track.

The departments like FCS&CA, Transport, Information, IT, Forest, BSNL and others were impressed upon to carry out their routine works as per the past practice enhancing the capacity wherever required with proper back-up plans in place. He termed their contribution as crucial for conduct of the yatra.

The Chief Secretary further directed the concerned to ensure that installation of lights, water tanks, toilets, back-up generators, Public Address System, communication towers is ensured at each camp location before commencement of the yatra.

CEO SASB, Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, informed the meeting about the past arrangements made by the departments and the scope for improvements. He gave out the details of works carried out after the culmination of yatra-2024.

Bhandari also highlighted the works to be undertaken by BRO for upgradation of yatra tracks besides for availability of reliable power and water supply to the devotees. He informed about the disaster management mitigation measures, prepaid hiring system, holding capacity of camps, registration of labour and pony besides other requirements for successful conduct of yatra this year.

The divisional administrations assured that foolproof arrangements would be made. They informed that power and water supply, health facilities, installation of toilets/baths, telephone, ration, fire fighting equipment, firewood, shelter sheds, helipads, mobile connectivity, langar, tents and SDRF/NDRF personnel deployment would be done at each spot identified for the purpose.

They informed the meeting that every facility required for the event would be created as per the standard practice besides taking all measures as per the directions given in this meeting.

J&K Bank brings...

those in need with means to improve their quality of life. By providing for the assistive devices and therapy to the individuals facing hearing and speech disabilities under the CSR initiative, we not only enhance their healthcare access through this campaign but are also empowering them socially and economically."

"Through this initiative, we continue to uphold our mission of contributing to the welfare of the people we serve, reaffirming our role as a socially responsible institution dedicated to positive societal transformation", he added.

Expressing gratitude for the Bank's support, VMS Patron Dr. Maqbool said, "This initiative by J&K Bank is a significant step towards improving the lives of people with hearing and speech impairments. Through this collaborative campaign, we aim to make a meaningful difference in their lives by ensuring that they receive the much-needed medical care and requisite aids."

Under the initiative, 15 speech & audiology medical camps will be organized across the region. The campaign is expected to directly benefit over 1500 individuals by providing free hearing aids, while thousands more will undergo medical assessments at these camps. Additionally, hundreds of beneficiaries will receive speech therapy treatments to improve their communication abilities.

Besides expanding awareness and education on hearing and speech-related challenges among the communities in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the organisation of free camps will encourage early interventions by enabling timely diagnosis and treatment to prevent long-term disabilities.

While providing essential medical support to underprivileged individuals, the initiative will empower the people with hearing and speech impairments to improve their social, educational and economic participation in the larger goals of national development.

IG Jammu reviews...

well as to combat potential security threats, a police spokesperson said.

He said emphasis was placed on countering emerging security challenges, improving surveillance, and enhancing coordination between field forces and the intelligence network. The IGP Jammu also discussed strengthening the logistics support, patrolling, and preventive measures to thwart any potential incidents, the spokesman said.

He said Tuti also highlighted the need for continuous engagement with local communities, particularly in areas with difficult terrain, to foster cooperation and build trust. Ensuring the welfare of officers deployed in these areas, particularly in remote and challenging locations, was also stressed as a priority, the spokesman said. DIG DKR Range; SSSP of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban; SSP Special Ops and Ttg, ZPHQ, Jammu; SSp Ops of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Jammu; and SO to IGP Jammu were present on the occasion.

Time to punish...

from India. The two countries have signed a series of agreements, under which India is exporting 2656 MWs of power. This energy export from India made Bangladesh to run its factories and business establishment apart from meeting the domestic consumers' demand. Likewise India has been exporting two lakh tones of rice to Bangladesh which feeds its over 17 crore people. India cannot be having business as usual with Bangladesh when the foundations of its infrastructural assets are being hit hard alongside an overarching narrative against the country that helped the people to create a nation of their own. Thousands of Indians sacrificed their lives to liberate Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971. As Bangladesh has become ungrateful and walked into the trap of enemies of India, India should also weigh its options and punish those working against the national security and interests of the country.

Police conducts awareness programme on New Criminal Laws at BGSBU



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI : The District Police Rajouri organized an awareness program on the New Criminal Laws-Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyami (BSA). The event aimed to educate students and faculty members about the key provisions and implications of these newly enacted laws.

The program was attended by SP Operations Thanamandi, Dy.SP Headquarters Rajouri, Sr. PO DPO Rajouri faculty members and students of BGSBU University.

Key speakers at the event included ASP Vinay Gadge; Dy.SP Headquarters Rajouri and Sr. PO DPO Rajouri.

During the session the speakers elaborated on the significant changes introduced in the new criminal laws emphasizing their impact on law enforcement judicial procedures and citizens rights.

This initiative reflects the commitment of the District Police Rajouri to spread legal awareness and ensuring that the general public is well-informed about the changes in the criminal justice system.

Two drug peddlers arrested; approx 10.72 grams of heroin recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In continuation to take tough action against drug menace and its propagators within the District, J&K Police Kathua recovered Approx. 10.72 grams of heroin (chitta) like narcotics near Khanpur area of PS Rajbagh and two drug peddlers were arrested. A team of PS Rajbagh under the supervision of SDPO Border and SHO P/S Rajbagh during patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area at Khanpur area apprehended two suspicious persons namely 1. Abhinandan S/o Balkar Singh R/o Pali Tehsil & District Kathua 2. Feroz S/o Salim R/o Saharanpur A/P Working under MEGA Company Barnoti who were coming towards Khanpur under suspicious circumstances. During checking, approx. 10.72 grams of heroin like narcotics were recovered from their possession who were doing illegal trade of selling narcotic contraband among the youth of Rajbagh in order to gain illegitimate profit. Thereafter all the recovered narcotics i.e. approx. 10.72 grams of Heroin was seized and two persons were arrested. In this connection, a case vide FIR No. 25/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act got registered at P/S Rajbagh and further investigation has been taken up.



2 tractors indulged in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Acting sternly against illegal mining within the district, Police team of PS Billawar under the supervision of SDPO Billawar and SHO PS Billawar seized 02 vehicles (02 Tractor trolleys) bearing Reg. No.s JK08P-6234 & JK08L-7988 indulged in illegal mining/transportation of construction material without "A" form. Meanwhile both the vehicles indulged in illegal mining were seized & immediately handed over to the officials of the Geological and Mining department Kathua for further legal proceedings.

Janipur police arrests snatchers within 6 hours, lodged in lockup

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Janipur police arrested two snatchers within 6 hours and lodged in lock-up.



One applicant Akashay Kumar Aryan, son of Suresh Kumar, resident of Lower Roop Nagar lodged an application to the effect that he was going from home towards library at Lower Roop Nagar Janipur Jammu. On the way one unknown person coming on his scooter snatched his I phone 12 costing Rs.70000-. On this a case FIR no. 17/2025 U/S 307 BNS was registered police station Janipur & investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, SHO Janipur Insp. Vikram Sharma sought the help of smart city cameras installed at different places and identified the Scooty bearing Registration no. JK02CF 0979 of the accused person and also with 6 hours arrested accused persons Sumeet Sharma, son of Omkar Sharma, resident of Bhaderwah at present Paloura Jammu and Aman, son of Satveer, resident of Rajeev Nagar Narwal Jammu.

The above said scooty was also seized in the instant case. Further investigation is going on to arrest their whole gang who are acting in the different parts of the Jammu city using the same modus operandi.

Accused Sumit Sharma is habitually addicted to criminal activities of theft and snatching and this is fifth FIR registers against him. Therefore, SHO Janipur also immediately opened his history sheet as per the police rule.

Pertinent to mention here that smart city cameras installed in the city helped in decoding the number plate which ultimately led to the arrest of accused persons.

With all the accused in custody and key evidences secured, the investigation is progressing towards a water tight prosecution.

Kishtwar police organizes awareness program on new criminal laws at ITI college



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: On the directions of SSP Kishtwar, Javid Iqbal Mir, J&K Police District Kishtwar organized an awareness program at Government ITI Kishtwar to educate trainees on newly enacted criminal laws and other key legal issues.

Additional SP Kishtwar, Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma, addressed the gathering, highlighting the key provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyami (BSA), 2023.

The session also covered topics such as cybercrime, traffic regulations, women's safety, and drug abuse prevention. Over 200 trainees and faculty members participated, engaging in discussions and raising queries. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from the ITI administration, appreciating J&K Police's efforts in legal awareness and community engagement.

Kishtwar police organizes cybercrime workshop

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: On the directions of SSP Kishtwar Javid Iqbal Mir, a one-day Cybercrime Awareness Workshop was organized today at District Police Office (DPO) Kishtwar. The workshop was attended by In-charge Police Posts (IC PPs), officials from various Police Stations, and other field officers, aiming to enhance their knowledge and response mechanisms against evolving cyber threats.

The session was conducted by IC CCIU Kishtwar PSI MOIN Khan, who delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the latest cybercrime trends. The presentation covered various forms of cyber fraud, including phishing, vishing, smishing, online financial frauds, digital arrests by hackers, pornography-related cybercrimes, mobile phone thefts, fake calls, and other emerging threats in the digital landscape.

During the session, participants were sensitized about the immediate steps to be taken when handling cybercrime-related complaints at Police Stations, Police Posts, and Police Pickets.

Special emphasis was laid on the importance of registering complaints promptly, guiding victims through the legal process, and utilizing online resources such as the national cybercrime helpline number 1930, NCRP and CEIR Portal. Officers were also briefed on addressing social media frauds, online banking scams, and other technology-driven offenses.

Additionally, officers were briefed on detecting and addressing social media frauds, online banking scams, and other technology-driven offenses. The session also underscored the importance of public awareness initiatives, urging officers to conduct outreach programs to educate citizens on cyber hygiene and preventive measures against online frauds.

The workshop marks a significant step by J&K Police in strengthening cybercrime detection, prevention, and awareness in Kishtwar district.