

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Committee formed to...

people with disabilities to visit the shrine. "There are apprehensions among the Katra residents (over the loss of livelihood opportunities after the construction of the ropeway). We want to dispel those apprehensions and want them to be on board," the LG said. Katra town, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the shrine, witnessed massive protest against the construction of the proposed ropeway on February 28, a week after Sinha announced that the project is in the final phase of tendering and will be undertaken with utmost sensitivity to safeguard the interests of the local businessmen.

The SMVDSB has recently approved a Rs 250-crore passenger ropeway project between Tarakote Marg and Sanji Chat along the 12-km track to facilitate elderly people, medically unfit and disabled people who are not able to offer their prayers at the shrine.

"It (ropeway project) is still in the pre-consultation phase. We have framed a committee comprising Divisional Commissioner (Jammu), CEO shrine Board and other officials who will hold talks with the people and note their suggestions," said Sinha, who paid his obeisance at the shrine and also participated in a special prayer.

"I am sure the issue will be resolved to the best satisfaction of the people who will be benefited (from the project)," he said.

People with disabilities and other health issues across the country wish to visit the shrine but are not able to pay their obeisance, he said, suggesting that the facility was meant to facilitate such devotees.

"Once the issue is resolved, we will come out with the construction and inauguration date of the service as well," he said.

Earlier addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor said the interests of traders, pony walas, local business community and other stakeholders are being safeguarded while developing the facilities for the devotees.

"The ropeway from Tarakote to Sanjhi Chhat will come up soon. I assure the local people, traders and all the stakeholders that the ropeway facility will be provided to only elderly, sick and specially-abled devotees," he said, adding "we have kept a limited capacity of devotees per day. There will be no impact on the livelihood of traders, business community and ponywalas."

Lauding the shrine board for completing the five-storey Durga Bhawan in 18 months braving challenging weather conditions and topography, the LG said the administration is duty-bound to ensure better facilities for the pilgrims.

"The Durga Bhawan can accommodate 3,000 pilgrims per day and it will provide ease and comfort to the seekers besides, ensuring effective crowd management," he said, adding the work is also nearing completion on other vital projects including the Skywalk near the Bhawan.

According to the officials, work on widening of Atka Aarti complex is likely to be completed soon and will increase the sitting capacity from 200 to 550, while the Skywalk will be completed by June.

"The Shrine Board has started various new initiatives for providing better facilities to the pilgrims. Spiritual and cultural heritage is being revived by building modern infrastructure and administration is committed to ensure that devotees on sacred pilgrimage are looked after well," Sinha said.

He said it is the responsibility of the shrine board to enrich the traditional values and facilitate the spiritual journey of the devotees coming from across the country and abroad, especially those who are elderly, sick and specially-abled.

The Lt Governor also shared the efforts for bringing the prominent spiritual and

religious places of the region on the spiritual tourism circuit which will also generate livelihood opportunities for the locals.

"The board has also approved the reconstruction of Shankaracharya temple near Katra. Underground cabling works will be completed next month and Skywalk will be ready by the month of June. Many more projects are in the pipeline to uplift the religious tourism sector in the region," he said.

Earlier, the Lt Governor paid obeisance at the sanetum sanetorum and prayed for happiness, peace and prosperity for all.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Members; Anshul Garg, CEO SMVDSB, Donors and pilgrims in large numbers attended the inaugural ceremony.

4 from Bihar...

passengers were injured, of whom 23 were rushed to various hospitals for treatment. Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha expressed anguish over the incident and directed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected people.

"I am deeply anguished by the unfortunate bus accident in Awantipora today, in which precious lives have been lost and many others have been injured. I have issued instruction to the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected persons," Sinha wrote on Twitter.

He said the district administration is in touch with the bereaved families in Bihar to provide all possible help.

Meanwhile, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has also expressed grief over the death of four migrant workers from the state in a road mishap in Pulwama district.

According to a statement from the Chief Minister's office, instructions were issued for payment of Rs two lakh as ex-gratia to the next of the kin of each deceased.

Besides, the state's Resident Commissioner at New Delhi was directed to get in touch with the administration in Jammu and Kashmir, to make arrangements for bringing the bodies to respective native villages of the deceased and also ensure proper treatment of those, from Bihar, who were injured in the mishap.

SIA raids 8...

Under this garb, Barkati not only generated huge funds but prima facie, also laundered money coming from unidentified sources, suspected to have originated from terror outfits, for further use in sustaining the secessionist-terrorist campaigns, the officials said.

In 2016, Barkati, a resident of Zainpora in Shopian, became notorious for mobilising thousands of people onto streets for a violent agitation through his incendiary oratory.

It is alleged that Barkati used to openly invite and incite youngsters to take to violence and pull down the Indian State in Jammu and Kashmir.

The SIA has so far identified 10 suspects whose involvement has surfaced in the initial investigation. The early morning raids spread over many districts of Kashmir are still underway.

With the seizures of electronic gadgets, incriminating material and other corroborative evidence, the SIA is hopeful that the searches would enable it to extract some vital leads, including on whether these funds had anything to do with terror and Hurriyat finances.

Preliminary investigations have shown Barkati has diverted a substantial part of the funds for his personal benefits and purchased a piece of land worth Rs 45 lakh in Anantnag town in the name of his wife, which he subsequently sold for Rs 72 lakh, making a profit of Rs 27 lakh, and also built a palatial house using public

money.

He has also purchased five kanals of land to establish a madrassa, which according to credible information is meant for making money and providing a platform to anti-national elements and also aimed at being a breeding ground for luring youngsters towards terrorism.

A large chunk of such ill-gotten money has allegedly been deposited in several FDRs in the name of Barkati's family members.

Not only has the accused breached the public trust through emotional blackmailing by building a personal fortune with the funds donated to him by people for daily sustenance, he also camouflaged money coming from suspicious sources under the garb of crowdfunding for the furtherance of the secessionist-terrorist campaigns, the officials said.

J&K people will...

DDC now they are again joining their heads to enact new drama to disturb the electoral process. He said that the dynastic rulers, who had been befooling the people and making governments with 1000 or 500 votes for the past several decades, should not forget that lakhs of voters came forward in the Panchayat, BDC and DDC elections in spite of the obstructive politics of the Gupkar Group of opposition parties. They should know that their negative politics will fully be rejected by the people, he said. Tarun Chugh said that the decision to announce elections to the Legislative Assembly rests with the Election Commissioner. Whenever announced, the elections will be successfully conducted under Modi Government, he maintained.

DPAP aims for...

to build a better and progressive Jammu Kashmir where the future of youth is secure. He said if his party is coming to power, he will bring the massive developmental revolution across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir besides he will continue to fight for the rights of people.

"Be it statehood, land or jobs, I will lead my people from the front to secure their rights," he told the gathering. He said he will never let people alone and every issue that matters for the common people will be concerning him.

"My people are my priority. I have come back to Jammu Kashmir only for my people otherwise, I had all the opportunities I could desire ever in my life."

Among others who were present on the occasion were G.M Saroori Vice Chairman, Taj Mohiuddin Treasurer, Haji Abdul Rashid General Secretary, Saddam Nabi Azad, Ghulam Nabi Bhatt, Farooq Shikari, Arif Maqbool, Altaf Dar and others.

Hours after arrested...

creating video of a lady and for harassing her. The accused Mushtaq Ahmed, Head Constable (Munshi), Women Police Station, Kathua demanded bribe of Rs. 5,000 from the complainant for not taking action against him in the said matter.

During verification, allegations mentioned in the complaint were found to be genuine and it was revealed that the accused Mushtaq Ahmed was demanding bribe of Rs. 5,000 from the complainant for not taking action against him. During verification, on the request of the complainant, the accused reduced the demand of bribe to Rs.3,000. Accordingly, a trap was laid by CBI and the accused was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 3,000 from the complainant. Searches were also conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused.

He was taken to police station and at about 5:00 PM, during questioning his condition deteriorated and a doctor was called at police station who after check up, referred him to GMC Kathua where he died during treatment. After the death, the police reached the spot and took his body into custody. During the investigation so far, it has been told that he died due to heart attack.



Bootlegger held with illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Police on Saturday nabbed a bootlegger and recovered huge quantity of illicit liquor from his possession.

Giving details Doda Police said that a party of Police Station Bhaderwah laid a Naka at Chinar Mohalla of Bhaderwah and during checking one vehicle (VAN) bearing registration No. JK06-8034 driven by one Sanjay Kumar son of Kamal Nain resident of village Bhadrota (Bhadawah) was stopped and during checking, (39) bottles of illicit liquor was recovered from his possession which he had carried in the van for the purpose of selling illegally. In this regard, FIR No. 35/2023 under relevant section has been registered at Police Station Bhadarwah and investigation of the case has been taken up.

Doda police launches special hunt against traffic violators

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Acting tough against the traffic violators, Doda Police in a special drive, seized 14 two-wheelers in Bhadarwah area for their involvement in over speeding, rash and negligence driving etc. The team constituted at PS Bhadarwah headed by Inspector Jatinder Singh, SHO Police Station Bhaderwah has launched a massive hunt in Bhadarwah area to check traffic violations.

Doda Police has warned that if any found violating the traffic rules, stringent action shall be taken which also includes suspension of driving license alongside seizure of vehicles and other penalty under rules.

98 bovines rescued; 9 smugglers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Drive against bovines smuggling in district Udhampur continues, Udhampur police on Saturday laid special Nakas on NHW & arrested 9 bovine smugglers and rescued 98 bovine animals which were being illegally transported by them.

As per the details, a team of Police Station Udhampur headed by Insp. Raghuraj Singh SHO PS Udhampur under the supervision of Addl SP Udhampur Anwaar Ul Haq and Gurmeet Singh DySP Hqs Udhampur during regular/ surprise Nakas on NHWs & apprehended 04 bovine smugglers and rescued 27 bovine animals from their possession while transporting them to Kashmir. In this regards, FIR numbers 137/141/142/145 of 2023 under section 188 of IPC and 11 of PCA Act was registered at Police Station Udhampur and investigation set in.

While foiling attempts of bovine smuggling teams of Police Station Rehambal and PP Tikri led by Insp. Rajesh Sharma SHO Police Station Rehambal and assisted by PSI Abdul Satar IC PP Tikri registered four cases FIR's numbers 65/66/67/68 of 2023 under section 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act at Police station Rehambal and arrested four bovine smugglers and rescued 41 bovine animals from their possession.

Team of Police Station Chenani led by Insp. Sarveshwar Dev Singh under the supervision of SDPO Chenani Sh. Tahir Amin Sheikh foiled bovine smuggling attempt and rescued 30 bovine animals who were transported to Kashmir valley and arrested one bovine smuggler. In this regards, FIR No. 47/2023 under sections 188 of IPC 11 of PCA act stands registered at Police Station Chenani and investigation initiated.

Three criminals booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH/KATHUA: Three criminals were booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in the Bishnah and Kathua on Saturday, police said. Kawaljeet Singh of Jasrota village and Naresh Kumar of Dhalli village were detained under the Public Safety Act and shifted to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu, a police spokesperson said. He said Singh has 15 FIRs registered against him while Kumar is named in eight FIRs. "The duo was involved in the commission of organized crime for the past few years. The ordinary substantive law has failed to restrain them from committing criminal activities," the spokesperson said. He said that the police prepared their dossiers and sent it to the district magistrate, Kathua, who subsequently issued a detention warrant against them under the PSA.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

Meanwhile, a team of Police Station Miran Sahib led by SHO Miran Sahib Insp Zaheer Mushtaq under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Surinder Singh and overall supervision of SP Hqs Rannish Gupta on specific information arrested one notorious criminal namely Harvinder Singh alias Baddu, son of Kulwant Singh, resident of village Simbal Camp, Miran sahib Tehsil RS Pura Distt. Jammu and detained him under Public safety act (PSA). It is pertinent to mention here that the accused person is notorious criminal of desperate character and was involved in 12 Heinous criminal cases including, attempt to murder, Stabbing ,smatching etc. Warrant of arrest under PSA was issued against the accused, warrant has been executed today and accused got shifted to central Jail Kot bhalwal Jammu.

5 extortionists held; extortion money recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Police on Saturday arrested 5 extortionists involved in blackmail-

ing, threatening and extortion in Shalteng Sheeri area of Baramulla & recovered extortion money from their possession.

Police Station Sheeri received a written complaint from one person (name withheld) wherein he stated that on 27th of February 2023 while he was on way to his home & on reaching Shalteng Sheeri, five persons reportedly drug addicts, assaulted him and extorted Rs.20000 from him.

On this complaint, a case under relevant section of law was registered in Police Station Sheeri and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation and strenuous efforts, all the five accused persons were arrested. They have been identified as Nasir Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Amin resident of Shalteng Sheeri, Irshad Ahmad Malla son of Ghulam Din, Umar Akbar Ganie son of Mohd Akbar, Tajamul Bashir Malla son of Bashir Ahmad & Waseem Ahmad Malla son of Manzoor Ahmad Malla, all residents of Sheeri Baramulla. Extorted money Rs 20000 was also recovered from their possession. The arrested persons have been taken to Police Station where they remain in custody.

3 drug peddlers arrested; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police on Saturday arrested 3 drug peddlers in Handwara, Sopore and Ganderbal and recovered contraband/Psychotropic substances from their possession.

In Handwara, a police party of Police Station Qalamabad at a checkpoint established at Qalamabad market intercepted a suspicious person. On checking about 95 grams of charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Zahoor Ahmad Dar son of Ab Khaliq resident of Waskura Handwara. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

In Sopore, a police party of Police Station Tarzoo during patrolling at Sofi-Akbar road, intercepted a scooty bearing registration number JK16-3533. On checking 15 grams of brown sugar like substance was recovered from Muzaffar Ahmad Marazi @Muzz Marazi son of Muhammad Akbar resident of Sofi Hamam Sopore who was riding the scooty. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody. In Ganderbal, a police party led by SHO PS Kheerbavani Insp. Mudasar Zaroo during patrolling at Bagoorampora Saloora intercepted a person identified as Showkat Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Mohd Bhat resident of Saloora Ganderbal. During search, 18 strips of SpasnoProxyon tablets were recovered from his possession. 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.

Illicit timber seized, 3 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Police on Saturday seized illicit timber and arrested 3 accused persons involved in the commission of crime.

A police party of Police Station Uri under the supervision of SDPO Uri Shri Shokat Ali-JKPS arrested three persons identified as Ali Mohd son of Ab Aziz, Farooq Ahmad son of Ab Hameed Mir & Gh Mohd Bhat son of Mangi Bhat, all residents of Nambla Uri and recovered illicit forest timber measuring about 35 Cft on their disclosure at Nambla Uri.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Uri and investigation has been initiated.

Notorious drug peddler booked under PIT NDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have booked a notorious drug peddler under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining necessary sanctions from the authorities in Baramulla.

The notorious drug smuggler namely Basharat Rajab Dar son of Mohd Rajab Dar resident of Sheeri, District Baramulla has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act of 1988 after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked drug peddler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jail, Jammu. Pertinent to mention here that a NDPS case is registered against the said drug smuggler and was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Narvay belt and other areas of District Baramulla. Despite his involvement in many FIR's he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

Narcotic drugs & psychotropic substances worth Rs 19 cr destroyed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Continuing the drive to eliminate drug menace, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances worth Rs 19cr seized in various FIRs was destroyed by the Committee of Officers Constituted by the Principal District & Sessions, Judge, Pulwama, Naseer Ahmad Dar. The Committee was headed by Munsiff, Pulwama, Faizan I Nazar while other members included Tehsildars of Pulwama and Pampore, Public Prosecutor, DySP Hqs. Pulwama, Dy: SP DAR Awantipora, Field Officer Pollution Control Board, Chief Administrative Officer to PD&SJ Pulwama and all SHOs of PDs Awantipora and Pulwama besides others. The Committee destroyed the NDPS scientifically at IGC Lassipora in Kashmir Health Care Systems, the only facility in the valley for scientific disposal of bio-medical Waste. The destruction process was video-graphed by the team deputed by the Crime Branch.

Committee recorded appreciation for efforts and logistic support provided by SDPO Litter and IC PP Lassipora and specially expressed gratitude to Bashir Ahmad Wani of Kashmir Health Care System for his appreciable role in prioritising the destruction in his unit.

Stolen car recovered in 4 hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police on Saturday recovered the stolen Wagonar in about 4 hours and handed it over to its owner after completing all the formalities. According to the information, thieves escaped with a Wagonar (JK02U-1551), which was parked in the parking lot near the Middle School located in Wadeyan.

On the other hand, Pradeep Kumar, resident of WagneR, Jammu, who had come to see his sick mother-in-law at his in-laws' Wadeyan return back to parking lot with his sick mother-in-law to take her to Jammu, the car was missing. Later, he went to Jammu after taking his mother-in-law in another vehicle, but his mother-in-law died. After his last rites, he spoke to Jitendra Varmani, head of the Board of Trade, in this regard. Meanwhile, when he checked his messages, there was a message about deducting money from Nashri tunnel. Jitendra Varmani immediately reached Udhampur police station with Pradeep and informed the station in-charge Udhampur in this regard and lodged a complaint in this regard. On getting the information, SHO Udhampur Raghuraj Singh immediately sent the team under the chairmanship of Sahil Chib towards the valley and also informed all the police stations in this regard. The team members immediately traced the vehicle and reached Udhampur with the vehicle. Later vehicle was handed over to owner after completing all the formalities.

Sarpanch's house caught fire under suspicious circumstances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Goods worth lakhs were burnt to ashes after a fire broke out under suspicious circumstances in the house of Sarpanch of Sarad area of Tehsil Chenani. According to information, a fire broke out in the house of Sarpanch Suresh Kumar of Sarad under suspicious circumstances and spread so fast that they didn't even get a chance to control it.

As soon as the people got information about it, they immediately informed the police and fire department which reached the spot started dousing the fire with locals also. In some time the SDM himself reached the spot and the entire operation went on under his supervision. After a lot of effort the fire was brought under control. In this incident, goods worth lakhs of Sarpanch's house were burnt to ashes. While the police have registered a case in this regard, the cause of the fire is being investigated.

Couple injured in road accident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LAKHANPUR: Two people riding a motorcycle got injured due to collision of two motorcycles near the Lakhapur National Highway road Golden Gate. The injured were immediately admitted to Kathua District Hospital where they are undergoing treatment. The injured have been identified as Indrajit, son of Pritam Chand, resident of Ward No 6 City Kathua and Suman Devi wife Indrajit.

According to the information, motorcycle (PB-35,4010) was coming from Punjab to Lakhapur while the motorcycle coming from behind at a high speed hit it near the Golden Gate and fled from the spot. The motorcyclist and his wife got injured, who were immediately admitted to Kathua District Hospital with the help of people, where they are undergoing treatment. However, the Lakhapur police have registered a case and started investigation.

Gas cylinder explodes in tea stall

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LAKHANPUR: A gas cylinder suddenly exploded late on Friday night in a tea shop outside the Higher Secondary School of Hatli village, located 15 Km from Lakhapur, burning all the goods kept in the shop. According to the information received, a cylinder exploded late night in Kashyap's fast food shop outside Hatli Higher Secondary, due to which the shop caught fire. Shop owner Pankaj Mehra, son of Desh Raj told that there was a sudden loud explosion late on Friday night created panic among villagers. All the goods kept in the shop were burnt to ashes. The villagers somehow controlled the fire, but by then all the goods kept in the shop were burnt. A loss of more than rupees two to three lakh is being estimated.

Truck carrying animal feed turns turtle at Lakhapur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LAKHANPUR: A truck turned turtle and fell on the highway amid light rain late on Friday night, although the driver and co-driver of the truck didn't get any injury. According to the information, the truck (PB-06H 9950) was going from Punjab towards Jammu and turned turtle in the middle of NH. There was no loss of life or property in this accident.

Two injured in mishap at SIDCO Chowk Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Two people were injured in a road accident that took place on Saturday evening at SIDCO Chowk in Samba on Saturday. The injured were shifted to the district hospital Samba with the help of people. According to the information, two people working in the factory were going towards Vijaypur on their motorcycle (JK21F-3736). Suddenly near Basantar bridge a truck (JK02CQ-9139) hit them, as a result of which the legs of both the persons riding the motorcycle were badly damaged as the tire of the truck came under them. The truck driver fled from the spot after the accident. As soon as the people around came to know about the road accident, they ran for help and informed the police. With the help of the people, police took both the injured to the district hospital in Samba, where the doctors gave first aid to both the injured and in view of their serious condition, referred them to GMC Jammu. The injured have been identified as Bahadur Lal, son of Baburam, resident of Ramgarh and Amarnath, son of Ditto Ram, resident of Ramgarh. Police have registered the case and started further action.