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After removal of...

and promotion of Sharda-script. Union Home Minister said that once upon a time Sharda Peeth was considered the centre of knowledge in the Indian subcontinent and scholars from all over the country used to come here in search of scriptures and spiritual knowledge. He said that Sharda script is the original script of our Kashmir, which has been named after Maa Sharda. This is one of the Mahashakti Peeths and according to religious beliefs, the right hand of Maa Sati fell here.

The Union Minister said that Sharda Peeth has been a historical centre of India's cultural, religious and educational heritage, like Kartarpur Corridor and the Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will move forward to open Sharda Peeth for devotees.

He said that due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi peace has been established in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the Valley and Jammu are once again returning to their old traditions, civilization and Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb.

Shah said that as per its commitment of social and economic transformation, the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken initiatives in all sectors of Jammu and Kashmir, including culture rejuvenation. The systematic restoration and repair work is going on at 123 identified places under this, which include many temples and Sufi Places.

He said in the first phase, 35 places were being renovated at a cost of Rs 65 crore. He said 31 mega cultural programmes have also been organized by identifying 75places of religious and Sufi saints.

Shah said that 20 cultural festivals have also been organized in every district, which will help in reviving our old heritage.

Amit Shah said that the zeal with which the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha has implemented all the flagship schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is worth praising. He said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Manoj Sinha has played a major role in bringing industrial investment in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that today's beginning will help in bringing back the lost glory of this place and with the blessing of Maa Sharda this place will remain the centre of worship and continue to awaken the consciousness of India for ages.

Admn facilitates live...

Infantry Brigade, Tangdar, N K Dhas; Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Dr.Doifode Sagar Dattatray; SSP Kupwara Yougal Manhas; ADC Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat; SDM Karnah, Dr Gulzar Ahmad Rather, officers and functionaries from District Administration Kupwara/ Tehsil administration Karnah were present at the occasion, besides other dignitaries and a large number of devotees.

On the occasion the Convenor, Save Sharda Committee Kashmir, Ravinder Pandita and other members of the committee including Surinder Mirza appreciated the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Dr.Doifode Sagar Dattatray in making the event successful.

Govt committed to...

Jammu Kashmir: Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir is realizing its true potential in sports. New sporting icons are emerging in every discipline, all the barriers have been removed and youngsters from small towns and villages are achieving their dreams, said the Lt Governor.

We have been successful in providing state of the art infrastructure, facilities, coaching and opportunities to the young sportspersons of J&K to prove their mettle, he added.

The Lt Governor asked the young table tennis players to take inspiration from the likes of Sharath Kamal, Mouma Das and Manika Batra and bring laurels to the country in international championships.

"Don't stop when you are tired. Stop when you are done. I call upon all the players to compete with the spirit of sportsmanship. Your aim should give new enthusiasm, new identity to the youth, and hope to the society and the nation," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said the presence of Arjuna Awardees, Khel Ratna and Dronacharya Awardees will surely raise the morale and confidence of the other players participating in the championship.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor and Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports also spoke on the occasion and enumerated the sports facilities and infrastructure developed in the last two years in J&K UT.

Around 900 players from across the country are participating in the championship.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council; members of Table Tennis federation, and prominent sports personalities were present on the occasion.

Woman killed, 7...

Charan Dass, his brother Kewal Kumar, Rishi Kumar all residents of Bhagratha Bhalla were undergoing treatment, he said.

Modi holds high...

presentation was made covering the global Covid situation including the rising cases in India by Secretary, Health, Rajesh Bhushan.

The prime minister was briefed that India has been witnessing a slight rise in new cases with average daily cases reported as 888 and weekly positivity reported as 0.98 per cent in the week ending March 22. However, 1.08 lakh daily average cases have been reported globally during the same week.

The action taken on the directions given by Modi during the last Covid review held on December 22, 2022 was also briefed, the statement said.

He was informed that availability and prices of 20 main Covid drugs, 12 other drugs, eight buffer drugs and one influenza drug is being monitored.

A mock drill was also conducted on December 27, 2022 in 22,000 hospitals, and many remedial measures taken by hospitals thereafter.

The prime minister was apprised on the influenza situation in the country particularly with respect to higher number of cases of H1N1 and H3N2 being noted in last few months.

Modi directed officials to enhance whole genome sequencing of positive samples with the designated INSACOG genome sequencing laboratories. This will support tracking of newer variants, if any, and timely response, the PMO said.

The prime minister emphasized Covid-appropriate behaviour including wearing of masks in hospital premises by both patients, health professionals and health workers. He also stressed that wearing of masks is advisable when senior citizens and those with co-morbidities visit crowded areas, the statement said.

Sarabjot clinches men's...

qualification round with 585 points.

Sarabjot was hitting the bulls eye every time he took aim, with his scores of 98, 97, 99, 97, 97, 97 in the six qualification series suggesting he would be hard to beat.

China's Liu Jinyao was a close second at 584.

Six other shooters -- Jason Solari (Switzerland, 583 points), Vladimir Svechinko (Uzbekistan, 582), Frederik Larsen (Denmark, 580), Zhang Jie (China, 580), Ruslan Lunev (Azerbaijan, 579) and Varun Tomar (India, 579) -- completed the list of eight marksmen who made it to the ranking round.

In the ranking round, Sarabjot continued to excel, while 19-year-old Varun also began superbly after qualifying eighth and last for the ranking round.

At the end of the ranking round, Sarabjot (253.2 points) and Ruslan (251.9) were placed first and second respectively and both of them entered the gold-medal round high on confidence, while Varun, who scored 250.3, settled for bronze.

In the battle for the top podium place, the Azerbaijan shooter was no match for Sarabjot, with the Indian firing single-shot scores of 10.4, 10.4, 10.3, 10.2, 10.2, 10.9 in comparison to Ruslan's 10.1, 10.1, 9.6, 9.5, 8.9 and 10.4.

As per the ISSF's new format, the winner of a single shot in the final gets awarded two points and the first to race to 16 points is the winner of the competition.

With Sarabjot shooting better scores in all six shots, he raced to the title, giving India its first gold medal in the competition.

For Varun, who has given ample indication of his precocious talent, this was his second consecutive World Cup bronze after he had finished third last month as well in Cairo. He had beaten Sarabjot in the shoot-off for the third place then.

The third Indian in the fray, Sumit Raman could not make the eight-shooter ranking round, bowing out in the qualification after finishing 13th with a score of 577.

In the women's air pistol event, 27-year-old Divya Subbaraju did much better than Olympian Manu Bhaker, entering the ranking round after coming third in qualification with a score of 579.

However, the Indian ended up ranked fifth with China's Li Xue winning gold after defeating Germany's Doreen Vennekamp in the title round. Another Chinese shooter, Wei Qian bagged the bronze medal.

The two other Indians -- Rhythm (572) and Manu (568) -- couldn't make the ranking round, getting eliminated in the qualification, after finishing 13th and 16th respectively.

NGO Terror Funding...

The case relates to the terror funding of proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Lashkar-e-Toiba(LeT) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, by certain NGOs, Trusts and societies based in the Valley. Investigations have revealed that Khurram Parvez and his associates raised funds to support individuals who were involved in pelting stones at security forces personnel and also motivated others to extend similar support. These trusts and societies, which have been under investigation, have utilised the funds raised by them to publish anti-national and incriminating material to cause hatred and disaffection towards Government of India.

Court sends Irfan...

the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies (JKCCS), it added.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Dharmesh Sharma allowed 10 days of custodial interrogation of Mehraj on the federal agency's plea of 12 days of custody.

After his arrest on Monday, the agency brought the accused to the national capital on a transit remand. It alleged that investigations have revealed the JKCCS was funding terror activities and propagating a secessionist agenda in the Valley under the garb of protection of human rights.

The NIA is probing the involvement of some Kashmir-based NGOs, Trusts and societies in the funding of terror-related activities.

The agency said some NGOs, both registered as well as unregistered, have been collecting funds domestically and abroad under the cover of doing charity and various welfare activities, including public health and education.

"But some of these organisations have developed links with proscribed terrorist outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM)," NIA said.

Activist Parvez was arrested in November 2021 by the NIA and chargesheeted on May 13 next year, along with six others, for alleged anti-national activities, including collecting information regarding vital installations and deployment and movement of security forces, procuring official secret documents and passing the same to LeT handlers through encrypted communication channels for monetary consideration.

BSF fires at...

officials said, adding a massive search operation was launched in the forward villages adjoining Chamliyal, Sapwal and Narayanpur border outposts to ensure that there was no dropping of any weapons or narcotics.

The open fields in Dug, Channi-Sapwal and Asampur villages are also being searched by the BSF personnel who were deployed in strength for the operation, they said.

J&K Bank establishes...

the SMVD Board, our branch remains dedicated to serve the shrine board, business establishments at the Bhawan and people working here besides all the devotees visiting the famous shrine.

A team of dedicated officials has also been placed for full time assistance to the board for management of cash that is received as public offering at the shrine". Sudhir Gupta said, adding that the bank has established three branches and installed nine ATMs from Katra to the Bhawan to provide easily accessible banking services to the devotees visiting the shrine from different parts of the country besides facilitating fresh cash and exchange of notes on special occasions like Navratra.

Notably, prior to inauguration of facility Executive Director Sudhir Gupta performed Pooja within the branch premises along with Zonal Head Udhampur and all the staff members of the Bank.

The function concluded with vote of thanks from Zonal Head (Udhampur) Rajesh Gupta who thanked all the dignitaries present on the occasion.

Azad launches membership...

Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Subash Gupta Ex MLC, Naresh Gupta Ex MLC, Sham Lal Bhagat Ex MLC, Arvinder Singh, Mickey General Secretary, Ashok Sharma VP, Maheswar Singh Provincial Gen Secretary, Hira Lal Abrol, Adv Masood Choudhary, Riaz Bashir Naz, Adv Rajinder Sharma, Sunita Arora, Gurmeet Kaur, Rehana Anjum, Prabha Salathia, Adv Zahid Malik, P.R.Manha, Gourav Chopra, Ashwani Handa, Anoop Khajuria and others.

Loss of seniority...

and K Rajasekar. "By its resolution dated 17 January 2023, the Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the appointment of Shri Ramaswamy Neelakandan, advocate practising before the Madras High Court, as a judge of the high court. As on March 31, 2023, Shri Ramaswamy Neelakandan was 48.07 years of age while Shri K Rajasekar on that date was 47.09 years of age.

"Shri Neelakandan, who is a member of the Bar, has been recommended earlier in point of time and must be appointed before Shri Rajasekar is appointed. Otherwise, Shri Rajasekar, who is a judicial officer and younger than Shri Neelakandan, would rank senior to Shri Neelakandan. Such a deviation in seniority would be unfair and against the settled convention," the resolution said.

The collegium said that while recommending the name of Rajasekar for elevation, it is of the view that his appointment should be notified after the appointment of Neelakandan is notified.

"The collegium is of the considered view that necessary action for the issuance of a notification for the elevation of persons who have been recommended earlier in point of time should be taken at the earliest including the name of Shri R John Sathyan which has been reiterated by this collegium on 17 January 2023.

"The names which have been recommended earlier in point of time including the reiterated names ought not to be withheld or overlooked as this disturbs their seniority whereas those recommended later steal march on them. Loss of seniority of candidates recommended earlier in point of time has been noted by the collegium and is a matter of grave concern," the collegium stated.

Restore Old Pension Scheme: USTA



Members of USTA after the meeting at Kathua.

(OPS).

Members of USTA further stated that Defined Benefit Pension Scheme or Old Pension Scheme is a well built social security scheme without any pecuniary contribution from the beneficiaries whereas NPS subscribers has to pay for the pension which put the teachers and employees into crisis. Expressing dismay over the non-regularization of various cadres in School Education Department for

the past ten years, organization demands regular scale for Lecturers, Headmasters, Principals, ZEO's and Chief Education Officers. USTA also demanded vanishing of look after charge to Headmasters, Lecturers, ZEO's, Principals and Chief Education Officers while giving promotion and demanded placement in promotional scale.

Other issues highlighted in the meeting include grant of in-situ promotion of higher

standard pay scale to masters, grant of Senior Teacher Scale to undergraduate teachers, filling up of all vacant post of teachers in the schools and increase in educational budget.

Later in the meeting, an election for Zone Bamoti Committee of USTA was held in which Mohammad Surmu was unanimously elected as President; Both Raj as Senior Vice President, Joginder Singh as Vice President; Mahesh Kumar as Secretary and Madan Lal as Chief Organiser. Those who attended the meeting include Dr. Shashi Pal Singh, Mohan Singh, Mohinder Singh, Shub Nandan Sharma, Rattan Singh, Sudesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Prabhat Singh, Narinder Kumar, Bharat Bhushan, Barkat Ali, Rajan Kumar, Joginder Singh, Bodh Raj, Ram Lal Verma, Pardeep Kumar, Sunny Kumar, Naresh Singh, Ashok Kumar and Shub Kumar.

Bhagwat Geeta Saptah starts with Kalash Yatra at Jia Pota Ghat



Glimpses of Kalash Yatra being taken out at Akhnoor on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: On the occasion of Navratri Utsav, Shrimadh Devi Bhagwat Geeta Saptah for a long week organized at Historical place at the bank of river Chenab Jia Pota Ghat Akhnoor by local people of Akhnoor town and took out a Kalash Yatra before the beginning of Shree Madh Bhagwat Geeta Katha.

Kalash Yatra started from the Jia Pota Ghat and passes through the whole market of Akhnoor town including Raja Bazar, Fawara Chowk, Gole Market, Bus stand

and finally culminated at Jia Pota Ghat.

Kalash Yatra took out under the supervision of Swami Hirdya Nand Giri Mahraj in the presence of Mahant of Jia Pota Ghat

Durga Mandir Mahant Parmeshwar Dass Maharaj, Senior Superintandent of Police SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat and other prominent persons were present in the

Kalash Yatra. Swami Hridya Nand Giri to be released the sermons on the based of Shree Madh Devi Bhagwat Geeta which concluded on 29th of March.

CRIME REPORT

Two narco smugglers nabbed; 50 gm heroin recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Intensifying its action against drug dealings and to neutralize activities of drug peddlers within the district,



Kathua Police on Wednesday recovered approximately 50 gm Heroin (Chitta) like narcotics at NH Rajbagh Naka point area, arrested 2 narco smugglers and seized an Alto car.

As per details, an information was received through reliable sources at Police Station Rajbagh that two persons namely Shonki, son of Feroz Din, resident of Mehma Pandori Tehsil & District Amritsar and Makhan Din, son of Shaiya, resident of Kateeba Batala, Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur are indulged in illegal smuggling of narcotics and proceeding from Lakhanpur towards Jammu in an Alto Car (PB02EL-6008).

Acting swiftly, a police team led by Insp Tariq Ahmed SHO Rajbagh under the supervision of SDPO Border Pankaj Soodan during naka/ checking duty at NHW Rajbagh area intercepted the vehicle (PB02EL-6008). On thorough checking approximately 30 gm Heroin like narcotics was recovered from Shonki and 20 gm heroin from Makhan Din, thereby making a total of approximately 50 gm heroin (chitta). Duo was arrested and FIR No. 62/2023 under sections 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Rajbagh.

3 drug peddlers arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from the society, Police on Wednesday arrested 3 drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

As per details, a party of Police Station Tarzoo at a checkpoint established at Chankhan Sopore, intercepted a suspicious person identified as Zahoor Ahmad Shah son of Ghulam Muhammad Shah resident of Arampora Sopore. During

search, 1.26 Kg Charas concealed in a bag was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody.

Meanwhile in Baramulla, a party of Police Station Baramulla during patrolling at Main Market Baramulla, arrested two drug peddlers identified as Adil Ahmad Sheikh alias Adil Channa son of Altaf Ahmad Sheikh & Adil Ahmad Sheikh son of Javid Ahmad Sheikh, both residents of Dewanbagh Baramulla. During search, 230 gm Charas was recovered from their possession. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in respective police stations and investigations started.

2 tractors seized, 2 drivers arrested for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Acting tough against persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police on Wednesday seized 2 tractors and arrested 2 drivers in Baramulla. As per the details, a party of Police Station Pattan under the supervision of SDPO Pattan, seized 2 tractors and arrested their drivers identified as Tanveer Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Akbar Bhat & Manzoor Ahmad Wani son of Ali Mohd Wani, both residents of Wanigam Bala at Dargam Nallah Palhallan, for their involvement in illegal extraction & transportation of minerals. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation started.

Dumper driver arrested for theft, stolen property recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Police on Wednesday nabbed a dumper driver for theft and recovered stolen property worth Rs 60,000 from his possession.

As per details, on complaint of Anil Kumar Singh, son of Sai Dass, resident of Kota Tehsil Hiranagar Kathua at Police Post Jyotipuram regarding theft of tyres of his vehicle Tralla (GJ06BT-8908) near G u r d w a r a Jyotipuram, FIR No. 66/2023 under section 379 of IPC was registered. After this, police immediately swung into action and after hectic efforts, arrested a dumper driver namely Maroof Ahmed, son of Ghulam Nabi, resident of Bhella Tehsil Bhella. During interrogation, he confessed his involvement in crime and on his disclosure, stolen property i.e., 2 tyres along with rims worth Rs 60,000 were recovered within 24 hours of registration of FIR. The whole operation is led by IC Police Post Jyotipuram PSI Rohit Sharma and SHO Reasi Vijay Sharma under the supervision of DySP headquarters Reasi Neeraj Padyar.

