

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! All necessary security...

eco-system alive in the Union Territory. "We have got rid of COVID-19 to a large extent and are expecting a good turnout of enthusiastic devotees (at Amarnath shrine) this year. The capacity of lodgment camps for the devotees has increased accordingly and all necessary security arrangements will be made (for the smooth and successful yatra)," Singh said.

The pilgrimage to the Himalayan shrine of Amarnath, located at a height of 3,880 metres in south Kashmir, will start on June 30 after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 43-day pilgrimage will end on August 11.

On the recent seizure of Rs 6.90-lakh hawala money in Jammu and alleged involvement of former minister Babu Singh, the DGP said the politician is absconding and he will be traced soon.

"After his questioning, a complete picture will emerge in the ease which is linked to Pakistan and separatism," he said, adding some people have already been arrested and the money trail clearly indicated that the fund was meant for subversive and anti-national activities.

Mohammad Shareef Shah (64), a resident of south Kashmir, was arrested with the Hawala money on March 31 from Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu and he revealed during questioning that he was tasked by Babu Singh to collect the money.

Three persons Sidhant Sharma of Kathua and S Gurdev Singh and Mohd Shrief Sartaj of Jammu have also been detained for questioning.

In response to another question on the misuse of social media, the DGP said Pakistan, its agencies and their stooges in J&K are using it to keep terror eco-system alive in the Union Territory.

"We are keeping a 24/7 watch and if anything adverse is coming to our notice, strict action is being taken in accordance with the law," he said, adding action has been taken against those who clandestinely promote terrorism and narrative of separatism and "strict action against them will continue in future as well."

### 626 BSF recruits...

start his career with the BSF, considered as the country's first line of defence, some 34 years ago when he was posted in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

That was a very difficult period (1990s) as Kupwara became the gate of militancy with large groups of terrorists going across the border (into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) and returned after training.

We suddenly found ourselves in a situation, for which in my opinion, we were not ready, Singh said.

However, the police chief said it was the sacrifice, dedication and devotion of the BSF officers and personnel in the late 1980s and early 1990s due to which there was a remarkable improvement in the overall security situation in the erstwhile state.

He hailed the BSF for securing the borders, and fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, insurgents in North East and Maoists in Central India.

Today is a golden moment in your lives and the training you received will help you overcome any challenge, he said.

The DGP also lauded the role of officers and training staff of the STC in shaping the future of the recruits.

The basic training is the bedrock of your career. You should always be ready to learn new things with an open mind, he said, asking them to respect the human rights of the people as taught in the training programme.

While the DGP acknowledged that there will be differences in the training atmosphere and the challenges they face during the service, he said quality training will never let them down.

### RSS leader lashes...

question about the Kashmir Files' movie, he said the film was not made by any government but by some non-political people and is based on reality.

When nearly 80,000 people have lost their lives, there are a lot of tragic stories a few Kashmiri Muslims at the behest of Pakistan unleashed the reign of terror and defamed Kashmiriyat and Islam. The Kashmiris should come forward and condemn those involved in the terror instead of maintaining silence, he said.

The RSS leader said he is personally against the displacement of anyone, whether in India, Pakistan or Bangladesh. There should be no oppression on anyone and everyone should live in peace everywhere.

Kumar said he had set up the J & K Sahara Samiti for the welfare of the displaced people, irrespective of their religion.

Referring to the conference organised by Muslim Rashtriya Manch, an RSS-linked outfit, he said members of various communities, including Gujjars, Bakerwals, Pahari-speaking people, Dogras and Kashmiris, attended the function.

It was organised to send a message across the country that we are all Indians, irrespective of our religion, region, caste, creed and language. The specialty of our country is that it connects people of all faiths and everyone lives respectfully, he said. Greeting the people on the commencement of the Navratri festival and the fasting month of Ramzan, Kumar said, We have to join hands and stay away from rioting and hooliganism to make India and Jammu and Kashmir an abode of peace and progress.

He lauded the Modi government for its successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and for helping other nations.

### Navratras festival begins...

and Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh also paid obei-



Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine decorated on the occasion of Navratras.

sance at the shrine and also reviewed the security arrangements.

The police chief expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and directed the officers to maintain a tight vigil, he said.

Like in the past, they said, the Bhawan (Sanctum Sanctorum) of Mata Vaishno Devi, Atka and the area surrounding it have been profusely decorated.

The decorations are made with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals have been installed in the Bhawan area, the officials said, adding the illumination of the area with attractive and colourful lights has also been done.

They said the breathtaking and festive decorations are a special visual delight for pilgrims who trek about 12km from the base camp Katra to Bhawan.

The board has also made elaborate arrangements for facilitating a large number of pilgrims who are expected to pay obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during Navratras, the officials said.

They said the arrangements include ensuring round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks leading to the shrine, sanitation and sanitisation, availability of special fast related food at the board's Bhojanalaya (community kitchens).

Besides, all the routes leading to the cave shrine have been fully maintained for smooth movement of pilgrims, they said.

The official said the CEO shrine board is constantly reviewing and monitoring the regulation of yatra along with other arrangements all along the track and in the Bhawan area and interacting with the pilgrims enquiring about the facilities made by the board for their facilitation.

Besides, special teams of shrine officers have been constituted for monitoring hassle-free operation of yatra at all the stations on the track leading to the shrine, the officials said.

### India poised to...

country, but for certain reasons did not receive the same impetus in J&K even though things had begun to change after the new arrangement was



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing industrialists and StartUps at a programme 'Industry participation in Start-ups' in Jammu, on Saturday.

introduced over here from August 2019, he said.

He said the number of startups in India has increased from 1,100 in 2014 to 40,000 in 2022, showing a huge jump but the numbers are negligible in J&K.

The startup movement in Jammu and Kashmir has been slower compared to the rest of India due to various reasons but now its impact can be seen through various agri-based startups, Purple Revolution and through startups in other fields like pharma, he said. The minister claimed that the youth from various parts of the Union Territory were voluntarily giving up government and corporate jobs to start their own ventures thereby increasing their income manifold.

India with its vast unexplored potential and immense innovation, is destined for a frontline role in the world and emphasised sustainable startups for sustainable future growth, he said, stressing the need for a wider integration and for industry and government to work as equal partners.

The demarcation between the public sector and private sector is fast becoming extinct and it has to be a partnership based on equal respect, equal stakes, equal participation and equal investment, he said.

The minister said greater integration and synergy among industry, government departments, academia and independent institutions was crucial to create an enabling environment for growth of startups.

Sustainable startups would sustain the future economy of India and give it global visibility in the years to come, he said.

While laying special emphasis on science-based startups, the minister said these kind of startups are the future of national and global economy.

While elaborating the need for industry in the sustainable growth of startups, he said the industry needs to be partners with equal stakes and equal investment in the movement.

Talking about the challenge of creating sustainable startups, he said startups need to be linked to livelihood.

Science based sectors, non-science sectors and academic institutions need to work together to link startups with livelihood. This could be done by exploring the unexplored local industry.

He said promoting startup culture in India required a change of mindset and this change is possible through rigorous awareness initiatives for boosting entrepreneurial spirit in a society that is obsessed with jobs especially government jobs to enable youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

### Create special force...

same blood. If you do a DNA test of both, the results will be same. There has been injustice with them (Pandits), which you yourselves are saying. The whole blame is being put on Farooq Abdullah, but it was the doing of V P Singh and Mufti (Mohammad) Sayeed, Swamy said at Navreh Milan', an intercommunity cultural festival organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Peace Forum, here.

The Rajya Sabha MP, however, said he has not watched the movie.

The B-JP leader also recalled the kidnap of Sayeed's daughter Rubiya Sayeed, saying it is still not clear how she was abducted, forcing the government to release some of the arrested JKLF militants.

His (Sayeed's) daughter was also kidnapped, which we could not understand how it happened. Because when I became a minister in the Chandra Shekhar government, (then National Conference MP) Saifuddin Soz's daughter was kidnapped by JKLF. Mufti (Sayeed) and VP Singh released 13 people from jail, but we did not release even a single person.

In the end, Soz's daughter was released by JKLF at her house in an auto-rickshaw. They were afraid of our warning. We are not the ones to make compromises, Swamy said.

Earlier, the National Conference founder had found support from former Union minister and now Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, who said that Abdullah had opposed the release of terrorists in exchange of Sayeed's daughter.

Swamy, while responding to a query from reporters on whether movies such as 'The Kashmir Files' be banned, he said he has personal experience of what the Pandits went through.

How can films be stopped in a democracy? (If you do not like) boycott it, he said.

Referring to the revocation of Article 370 by the Centre in August 2019, Swamy said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should forget about it as the special constitutional provisions will never return.

You should forget (Article) 370. It will never come back. When it is not in any other state, why in Kashmir?, he said, adding it was a temporary provision and one which could be revoked through a Presidential order.

Calling Kashmir an integral part of India, he asked the people to resolve issues through dialogue.

If there is anything, it can be discussed through dialogue. You should elect good representatives when the assembly elections take place, who can then talk with each other and resolve issues, he said.

The B-JP leader said the country should focus more on getting back Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin.

Earlier, Swami performed Pooja at the Chakreshwari Devi temple at Hariparbhath here, which was attended by scores of Kashmiri Pandits on the occasion of the Navreh', the first day of the Kashmiri new year celebrated by the Pandit community.

For the first time after 32 years, Hindus have got the right and the opportunity to pray before Chakreshwari Devi on the occasion of Navreh. This is a good beginning and it should not be stopped here, the locks on the temples need to be removed.

Some people tried to massacre them and lessen the numbers of the Kashmiri Pandits by spreading terror, but now that has ended. Now, we will together move forward to make J-K a progressive part of India, the B-JP leader said.

This was just the beginning and with the help of the Centre, all those temples which were shut or damaged, will be restored and re-opened, Swamy said.

He also said a temple built by Shankaracharya in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) will be taken under the government control.

### J&K reports 25...

448863 have recovered and 4750 have died; 2327 in Jammu division and 2423in Kashmir division.

Till date 6346319 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 31743persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 180 in isolation and 487864 in home surveillance. Besides, 5821782 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases, the Bulletin said that Srinagar reported 13 cases, Baramulla and Kulgam two cases each while Budgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kupwara, Bandipora, Shopian and Ganderbal districts reported no fresh cases during the past 24 hours.

Similarly, Jammu district reported four cases, Doda three and Rajouri one case while as Kishtwar, Udhampur, Kathua, Poonch, Samba, Reasi and Ramban districts did not report any fresh case during this period.

Meanwhile, no new COVID case was reported in the Union Territory of Ladakh, where the number of active infections dropped to five with one more patient recovering from the disease, officials said.

Ladakh recorded a total of 28,223 COVID-19 cases since the outbreak of the pandemic. Among them 228 people -- 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil - - succumbed to the infection.

According to officials, the reports of all 3,707 samples tested for the detection of COVID-19 in the twin districts on Friday came out negative.

One patient was discharged in Leh after recovering from coronavirus, taking the recovery count to 27,990, the officials said, adding there are only five active cases in the Union Territory and all of them are in Leh.

## CRIME REPORT

### Drug peddler arrested; contraband substance recovered

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police on Saturday arrested a drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per the details, officers from Police Station Chandoosa under the supervision of SDPO Kreeeri Dr. Khalid Ashraf, at a checkpoint established at Darwa Chandoosa arrested a drug peddler identified as Mudasir Ahmad Chopan son of Gh Mohd Chopan resident of Darwah Chandoosa and recovered 50 grams of Charas from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

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

## 3 arrested ; 3 tractors seizes for Illegal mining and extraction of minerals

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Police on Saturday arrested three persons and seized 03 tractors for illegal mining and extraction of minerals.

As per the details, Officers from Police Station Pattan alongwith In-charge PP Mirgund under the supervision of SDPO Pattan Shri Mohammad Nawaz Khanday arrested three persons and seized 03 tractors involved in illegal mining and extraction of minerals at Flood Spill Channel Baliharan Pattan, Baramulla. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation has been initiated.



### 8 bovines rescued, 2 vehicles seized

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police on Saturday foiled an attempt to smuggle bovines by rescuing 8 bovines in two separate operations in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal.

As per the details, acting on an information received from reliable sources regarding illegal transportation of bovines, a party of Police Station Ghagwal at Naka Tappal, signalled intercepted a Mahindra vehicle without registration no, Chassis No ZN2GHKF1J69229 for checking. "Instead of stopping the vehicle, the driver accelerated the vehicle but got successfully chased by alert cops within a few metres away from Naka Point ".

After checking the vehicle, 5 bovines were found laden inside the said vehicle which were tied in an cruel manner. In this connection, a case FIR No. 48/2022 under section 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act was registered in Police Station Ghagwal.

Similarly, a party of Police Station Ghagwal rescued 3 more bovines at Main Chowk, Ghagwal which were being transported illegally in a Scorpio vehicle bearing Regd. No. PB12F/8638 In this regard, a case FIR No. 49/2022 under section 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act stands registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

## LG, other J&K leaders extend Ramzan greetings

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and a host of leaders from the union territory on Saturday greeted the people on the commencement of the holy month of Ramzan.

The Ramzan moon was sighted this evening and Muslims in India will begin fasting from Sunday.

Greetings to the people on the commencement of Ramzan. This auspicious period teaches us to be humble, charitable and to work for the greater good of society. May this holy month bring peace, prosperity and happiness for all, Sinha wrote on Twitter.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah extended warm greetings to the people.

The NC president said, We must make most of the ensuing month by praying to the almighty for his forgiveness and mercy.

It is the time for repentance and improvising, a month that teaches self-control and benevolence. The month affords us the time to transform our lives for the good of our very being and the entire humanity. It is the month to purge ourselves of all malice and vice. I pray that those who fast and do good deeds throughout the month attain Allah's pleasure. I also pray that the month augurs well for the entire humanity, he said.

Omar Abdullah said the holy month teaches remarkable lessons of magnanimity, self-control and compassion.

Ramzaan Kareem brings with it the message of supporting the vulnerable and deprived, therefore we should go the extra mile to help those who are in need in these times. It is during this holy month that we commemorate the revelation of the Holy Quran. I hope the ensuing month deepens our spirituality, and refurbishes our sense of appreciation for blessings almighty Allah has provided us with, he said.

Other mainstream politicians, including former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, also greeted the people.

With the onset of Maah-e-Ramazan, may the divine blessings of this auspicious month infuse spirit of brotherhood, peace, communal harmony & prosperity for our UT. Wish you and your families a Happy Ramadhan, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said in his greetings.

## DC Srinagar visits Dargah Hazratbal, Dastgeer Sahib to oversee arrangements for Taraawi during Ramadan

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Saturday visited Dargah Hazratbal and Dastageer Sahib RA Khanyar to review the arrangements made for Taraawi (night prayers) during the holy month of Ramzan.

CEO, Wakaf, Mufti Fareed u Din, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Syed Haneef Balkhi, Senior officers from all concerned departments accompanied the DC during his visit.

The Deputy Commissioner impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure all basic amenities including uninterrupted supply of water and electricity, cleanliness in and around the

Hazratbal Shrine, Dastageer Sahab and other places so that devotees do not face any difficulty.

He directed the PDD and the PHE to ensure reliable power and water supply at the shrines particularly during the month of Ramzan especially during the Taraawi hours. He instructed for provision of standby transformers and generators and mobile water tankers as a backup at the shrine.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the SMC authorities to ensure thorough maintenance of cleanliness around the Dargah. He also directed for making lighting arrangements around the Shrines and asked the concerned to make all

street lights functional within two days.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed on making availability of all essential commodities in the markets besides checks on quality and control of prices so that people do not face any difficulty for want of essentials.

He also instructed the concerned authorities to ensure adequate transport and parking facilities besides hassle-free movement of traffic on the shrine routes. The Health department was directed for setting up a dedicated ambulance with paramedic staff at the Shrine besides arrangements for thermal screening for adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour.

## Culture, language part of tourism promotion: Dr Itoo Inaugurates Hot Air Balloon facility at Zabarwan Park

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Director, Tourism , Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo today said popularization of local cultures, cuisine, and languages is part of the promotional campaigns of the Department and Department is committed to provide a wholesome local experience of these components to the tourists

coming here.

Addressing the valedictory function of a cultural conference here today, the Director Tourism said cultural promotion and exchanges are the fundamental components of tourism and the Department, fully aware of this, has a set mechanism of promoting local cultures,

languages and cuisine among the tourists visiting the UT.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakeel Romshu and a galaxy of intellectuals were present during the session.

Earlier in the day, the Director Tourism launched the Hot Air Balloon adventure facility at Zabarwan Park, Srinagar.