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STATE LIMES

Shiv Sena demands recovery of electricity dues in interest-free installments



Shiv Sena (UBT) State Chief Manish Sahni addressing press conference.

tric projects. The people of

STATE TIMES NEWS

Rs 70,560 per 10 gram

up by 100

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded to stop disconnecting electricity connections and to give relief to consumers by paying their dues in interestfree installments.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir is rich in immense water resources. Where thousands of megawatts of electricity are being generated and can be generated from hydro-elec-

Jammu and Kashmir are entitled to free electricity and water. But the electricity department is forcing its consumers to live in scorching heat and darkness by changing electricity meters, increasing electricity rates and now issuing arbitrary

lump sum. He said that the people struggling with maximum unemployment, economic recession and inflation are expecting relief from the government.

orders to disconnect connec-

tions if the dues are not paid in

Sahni said that the people are suffering the consequences of not having an elected government. Sahni has demanded relief from the administration like interest waiver on outstanding amount of ten thousand and above and paying the bill in 10-12 installments.

On this occasion Women Wing President Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Kamgar Wing President Raj Singh and Secretary Rakesh Handa

Kavinder raises voice against forced-conversion attempts in Kashmir region Asks Admn, ECI to stop unscrupulous from deteriorating situation **STATE TIMES NEWS** who are actively pursuing

JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, has raised serious concern over the recent attempts of forced conversion in Srinagar, stating that such actions by unscrupulous elements posing a big threat to the ongoing peaceful election process in the Valley. Speaking at the meeting held here today, the senior BJP leader emphasized that the registration of an FIR against the cleric of Hazratbal shrine over alleged forced conversion of a Hindu boy, is a matter of serious concern. "The recent attempts of forced conversion in Srinagar are deeply troubling. Such actions not only violate the fundamental rights of individuals but also undermine the democratic ethos of our nation." Kavinder mentioned that

Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta along with others after the meeting.

similar disruptive attempts have been witnessed in the past, aimed at destabilizing the peaceful atmosphere of the Kashmir Valley. He highlighted the plight of Kashmiri Hindus, noting that they too were forcibly displaced from their homes in Kashmir as part of a well-coordinated conspiracy. This tragic episode, he emphasized, stands as a stark reminder of the systematic targeting and persecution faced by minority every citizen. The senior

communities Kashmir region.

Kavinder firmly stated that under the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government will never allow such nefarious endeavors of forced conversion to succeed under any circumstances. The Central Government is committed to preserve the social fabric, ensuring the protection of religious freedom for BJPleader emphasized safeguarding the peaceful election process in the Vallev is of utmost importance. He urged both the government and the Election Commission of India to take immediate and decisive action to thwart any efforts aimed at deteriorating the situation in the Valley. He also cautioned the general people, urging them to remain vigilant against the activities of unscrupulous elements their nefarious agenda to divide societies along communal lines.

Addressing party workers meeting, Kavinder urged them to undertake the crucial responsibility of ensuring the 100 per cent participation of people from their respective areas of Gandhi Nagar constituency in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He emphasized that the active involvement of every citizen is vital for the integrity and vibrancy of the electoral process. He called upon party workers to mobilize tirelessly, reaching out to every corner of the constituency to encourage voter registration, awareness, and turnout. Stressing the significance of each vote, he underscored that every voice matters in forming the shaping the future of the

KSJ to organise Durga Saptashati Yagya on its annual day function on Apr 14 press statement today. He said that there shall

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kishtwari Sangathan Jammu (KSJ) will organise a day-long Durga Saptashati Maha Yagya on its annual day function on April 14, 2024 in Jammu.

This was decided in a general body meeting headed by the Sangathan Chairman Ashok Kumar Sen. "The governing body of the KSJ have decided to organise a day -long Durga Saptashati Maha Yagya to celebrate the annual day function of the Sangathan in Shiv Mandir Janipur Jammu on April 14, 2024", KSJ Chairman Ashok Kumar Sen said in a

Vedic rituals and chanting bhajans at the venue beginning from 6:30 AM. He requested all Kishtwari- brothers and sisters residing in Jammu to join in this religious ceremony cum celebration to make it a memorable event.

be Durga Saptashati Yagya performed as per

This will be a get together to feel at home and share experiences with each other, President of the Sangathan Rajinder Singh said.

"This Pooja is performed for community welfare by seeking the blessings of Divine

Zangtrai observed at Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A festival of Kashmiri Pandit Community, Zangtrai, a day of great significance, was observed on Thursday at the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala,

Dr. Sushil Kumar Wattal introduced the Chief Guest, Principal and Session Judge, Smt. Kalpana Revoo. The programme started with lighting of the Jyoti and with offering of flowers at Bhagawaanji's photograph kept on the platform in the lush green lawn (Vatika) of the Ashram followed by Guru-Vandana.

The Chief Guest was decorated with a Shawl on this occasion by the President and Secretary of Bhagawaan Gopinathii Trust. Hundreds of ladies participated in the function who paid obeisance at the lotus feet of the Master. A great enthusiasm was noticed in the ladies who were seen thronging the Ashram during the whole day.

The Trust exhorted the gathering to follow the teachings of the Bhagawaan in letter and

spirit. Artists of repute Vijay, Deepali Wattal, Shanti Lal Sid, R.K. Saproo, Ravi Bhan, Darmesh Nargotra, Naina Saproo, Veerii Bhat and others presented melodious devotional songs on this occasion.

They held the gathering captive and each artist was greeted with thunderous applause at the end of their performance. Dr. Sushil Kumar Wattal conducted the proceedings of As a ritual, a small packet of salt and Rs.

5/- each were distributed among the ladies as token of love and Prasad from Bhagawaanji

The ladies left the premises satisfied and in a state of bliss with visible joy on their faces. A gathering was served with tea and kulcha during the celebrations.

It was also observed at the other Ashrams / Centres of the Trust viz: Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi; Vikaspuri, West Delhi, Kharyar Srinagar, Kashmir, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad and also at various other Santsang Mandals spread across the country.

AJHLA calls for urgent Govt Support to revive Jammu Tourism Industry

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The meeting of the All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association (AJHLA) highlighted grave concerns over the distressing state of the tourism sector in the region, particularly

The extension of the train service from Jammu to Katra has significantly impacted tourism, leading to almost zero business for stakeholders.

Inderjeet Chairman Khajuria and President Pawan Gupta emphasized the urgent need for government support to revive the sinking tourism industry.

numerous appeals, there has been a

VDC members, border residents foil major

lack of financial and moral assistance from the government. The absence of attractive tourist spots in and around Jammu exacerbates the situation," they

The extension of the train service and future direct connectivity to Kashmir threaten to further diminish tourist arrivals, affecting various businesses reliant on tourism such as shawl dealers, dry fruit vendors, dhabas, taxis, and auto-rickshaws, they said adding that urgent development projects, such as artificial lake, Mubarak Mandi complex, and riverbank beautification, require expedited attention to boost tourism.

Gupta suggested initiatives like introducing ebuses for local sightseeing and developing special attractions to tourists' stays and encourage visits to other religious sites like Shri Raghunath Ji and Shri Tirupati Bala Ji Temples.

The association appealed to the government for immediate intervention to prevent the tourism industry in Jammu from disappearing entirely.

The meeting was attended by other key office bearers, including M L Sharma, Anil Khajuria, Pritam Sharma, H S Manhas, Baldev Raj, Sunil Suri, Swarn Singh, and Varun Gupta.

Nirankari programme illuminates Chimney Chak with divinity

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chimney Chak, Pandorian - A spiritual wave swept over Village Chimney Chak, as the Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Pandorian hosted its highly participated Mega Open Nirankari Satsang Program today. The gathering, which welcomed countless devotees from various nearby villages, was graced with the holy presence and enlightening discourse of Rev. Ajit Singh Ji. He conveyed a profound message that resonated deeply with the participating devotees. He shared, "The Supreme Being (GOD) that the world seeks outside. Actually resides in the hearts of the saints and is obtained through the spiritual utterings of the Saints," struck a chord with everyone present. The Sant Nirankari Mission, known for its message of universal brotherhood and the oneness of God. once again demonstrated its dedication to spreading love, peace, and understanding through this Grand Satsang. The program provided a platform for participants to immerse themselves in devotional songs, prayers, and reflected in fostering a deeper connection with the divine. Today's event not only enriched the spiritual lives of the attendees but also highlighted the mission's commitment to weaving a tapestry of unity among diverse communities. The Sant Nirankari Mission extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who joined today's program, either in person or in spirit, and invites one and all to continue on the path of spiritual awakening and universal love. Lekh Raj Mukhi Pandorian expressed gratitude towards all devotees who have arrived.

Three absconders evading arrest since long arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a special drive initiated against wanted absconders GRP Jammu apprehended three absconders who were evading arrest for the last more than 10 vears at a

stretch. Jaspreet Singh alias Tina, son Kulwant Singh Resident

of H. No. 48 Lane No. 12, Nanak Nagar Jammu In FIR No. 16/2007 U/S 307/201/34/RPC 4/27 Arms Act Police Station GRP Jammu evading arrest for the last seventeen years, subsequently lodged in district iail Jammu; Yash Paul, son of Bachan Lal, resident of Palli Morh District Kathua in case FIR No. 01/1996 under section 379/34 RPC PS GRP Kathua absconding for the last 17 years, subsequently Lodged in District Jail Kathua and Raj Kumar, son of Rattan Chand, resident of Lakhanpur District Kathua



Bhadrali present Sujjanpur Punjab in case FIR No. 01/2006 U/S 279/334/304A RPC of PS GRP Kathua evading arrest for the last twelve years, presently Lodged In District Jail Kathua. Specially constituted teams headed by SHOs GRP Jammu and GRP Kathua accomplished

cross-border narco smuggling bid **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Setting a trademark of bravery and patriotic spirit, a Village Defence Committee (VDC) member in one of the villages falling ahead of Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS). referred to as LoC fence, in Nowshera sector of Rajouri foiled a cross border narco smuggling bid that led to recovery of a massive consignment.

This narco smuggling bid has been foiled in Village Makri which falls in the territorial jurisdiction of Police Post Bhawani of Police Station Nowshera.

Police in its official statement informed that in the dusk hours of 10th of April, a VDC member of village Makri after noticing four persons carrying a bag and moving in suspicious circumstances in the said forward village raised the alarm. Other residents of village reached there and a scuffle took place where they caught hold of a bag containing heroine like substance.

The suspects were identified as Naveen Kumar son of Moti Ram; Sukhvinder son of Babu Ram; Davinder @ Munna son of Rajesh Kumar and Shubam son of Babu Ram, all residents of Village Makri.

Police team headed by I/C PP Bhawani, after being telephonically informed regarding the instant matter by locals reached the spot along with army and recovered the bag containing consignment of Heroin like substance weighing around 8.5 KGs which was seized instantly.

Subsequently on a formal complaint a criminal case has been registered in case FIR No 36/2024 U/S 8/21/23 NDPS Act at PS Nowshera.

The police teams while proceedings further in the matter has succeeded in nabbing three of the four identified accused who were wanted in the instant case.

Trio have been arrested and are being investigated while pursuit for the fleeing fourth accused has been launched jointly by Rajouri Police and Army.

The brave act of villagers on LoC not only determines their bravery but also their patriotic spirit. Alongside it, a cross Line of Control narcotics smuggling racket has also been busted with this.

Police team is now conducting the investigation of the matter on all possible aspects including exploration of forward as well as backward linkages.

KP Sabha celebrates Zang Tri function

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Magnanimous Zang Tri function was organized at K. P Sabha premises on Thursday, the Tritiym Tithi of Navratra - Maa Chanderghanta day.

The day marks the respect for womanhood, an embodiment of Jagat Janani Jagat Amba.

It is the day, in ancient Kashmir, when married women used to pay visit to their parent's home on third day of Navreh and is now celebrated as women-empowerment day by the community.

The function was celebrated with great fanfare and gaiety. The large number of ladies along with their families participated in the function. Sabha has always served as maternal home for KP ladies, besides they are being served with atagath and salt as per

KP tradition. Dr. Samita Bhat Consultant, Gynae-Oncology, State Cancer Institute. Jammu was the Chief Guest over the function and was presided over by K. K. Khosa, President of K.P Sabha. The function began with Jyoti Prajulan and offering rose petals to Mata Saraswati by the Chief Guest, President and members of Executive Committee of Sabha.

The hymns in the praise of Ganesh and Goddess Durga were recited by acclaimed and renowned Kashmiri Vocalist Deepali enthralling the audience with her melodious devotional

President K. K. Khosa welcomed the gathering, especially Kashmiri women, and



Sabha members honouring Dr. Samita Bhat, Consultant, Gynae-Oncology, State Cancer Institute, Jammu.

for greater and responsible role of community women folk in transforming the community into a model society. He stressed on the responsibility of Kashmiri women folk in preserving the Kashmiri culture and language by way of imbibing the practice of conversing in Kashmiri language with younger generation at home. He also desired the Kashmiri women folk to observe Kashmiri functions and rituals in daily life and involve the younger generation at home in the functions, who otherwise are occupied. The Sabha expressed anguish on the inter-caste and delayed marriages in the KP community. Sabha strongly believes that women folk of a community is an ambassador of the culture, language and heritage of the community she belongs to. The responsibility of protecting, preserving, and disseminating the language, culture and heritage of a community lies more on the shoulders of folk. President women expressed his satisfaction on the active role being played by the female members of the executive committee of Sabha and impressed upon the

women of the community to

bank upon the Sabha for serv-

ices at any given time. He stressed upon the ladies to preach and teach their Children of the responsibility of looking after their aged parents and not to leave them forlorn to fend for theirselves.

Dr. Samita Bhat, enlightened the women on the religious significance of Zang Tri and appealed for active participation in the programmes organized by Sabha from time to time. She explained the significance of Zangtri Festival. She also stressed the need of Kashmiri women in educating the Kashmiri youth about their cultural and religious values. Dr. Samita Bhat reminded the Kashmiri women of their responsibilities in awakening the community people to protect and save the culture and religion.

Others who graced the occasion were T. N. Bhat, Ashok Executive Braroo the Members of Sabha who participated includes Deepak Dhar, Ashwani Koul, S. L. Bagati, G. J. Kampasi, Ashok Kher, Rajinder Tiku, Asha Kitchloo, Jitender Parimoo, V. K. Bakshi, Satish Khoda, V K. Mukhi, B. B. Bhat.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Sujata Sathoo and Dr. Usha Tickoo presented the vote of thanks.

PM Modi chairs meet to review preparedness for heat wave conditions over most parts of the counespecially in regional lan-(IMD), and the National

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid a forecast for extreme weather conditions in summer months. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday reviewed the preparedness for heat wave conditions and called for all arms of governments at central, state and district levels to work in synergy.

An official statement said Modi chaired a meeting where he was briefed about the likelihood of above-normal maximum temperatures

try during April-June, with high probability of such condition in central and western peninsular India.

Preparedness in the health sector was reviewed in terms of availability of essential medicines, intravenous fluids, ice packs, ORS and drinking water, the statement said.

The timely dissemination of essential information, education and communication (IEC) awareness material.

guages, through all platforms such as television, radio and social media was stressed upon at the meeting,

"Since a hotter than normal summer is expected in 2024, which coincides with the General Elections, it was felt that the advisories issued by the Health ministry and

NDMA be translated into regional languages and disseminated widely," it said. Modi stressed upon the

approach, and said all arms of the government at central, state and district levels, besides various ministries, need to work on this in synergv. He also stressed upon awareness creation along with adequate preparation in hospitals, highlighting the need for quick detection and

putting out forest fires. The principal secretary to the prime minister, home secretary, officials from Indian Meteorological Department

Disaster Management Authority attended the meet-India is likely to experience

extreme heat during the April to June period with central and western peninsular parts facing the worst the Meteorological Department had said recently as the country prepares for the mammoth seven-phase general elections starting April