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G20 event in...

G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant told reporters at a press conference. Kashmir, where tourism is a major industry, is embarking on an exciting journey with the G20 event in the Valley and it will send a strong message against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Union ministers who have been camping here to oversee the event said.

Stringent security arrangements have been made to ensure that the event concludes incident-free. The elite National Security Guard and Marine commandoes were helping police and paramilitary forces to secure the venues including the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), while the Boulevard Road around it has been made a no-go zone for three days.

There was a massive deployment of security forces on the route taken by the delegates and the Airport Road to Dalgate stretch.

Kant downplayed the absence of Chinese delegates, saying travel and tourism is a private sector activity and trade delegations from several countries had participated.

Officials said it is not that all invitees attend every meeting and some have skipped those held in other parts of the country also.

Asked about the negative travel advisories of many foreign countries on Jammu and Kashmir, India's G20 Sherpa said the "officials from G7 countries were participating and they would not have come here if there were any such advisory".

Youth of Kashmir...

often descended to sit on the banks of lakes of Srinagar as this place has captured imagination of artists, nature lovers and now film makers who will revive the film making in Jammu and Kashmir. Many famous national and international films have been shot in Jammu and Kashmir and the biggest aim of the government is now to revive film tourism not only in Kashmir but all over the country.

Reddy said, the event is of utmost importance as it will explore the immense potential of film tourism and its contribution to our vibrant tourism industry.

Winning two Oscars this year was a historic moment for us for 'Naatu Naatu Song' and for 'The Elephant Whisperers' documentary, said Reddy.

Reddy further said, film tourism is a powerful medium to promote tourism potential as films have a great impact on the travel choices attracting tourists all over the world.

Indian film actor, producer and entrepreneur, K. Ram Charan who was present during the occasion took part in fireside conversation with film critic and journalist Mayank Sharma. During his conversation, Sh. Charan said, the beauty of Kashmir is magical as it attracts people towards its pristine beauty, magical mountains and what not.

G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant said, PM Narendra Modi believes that tourism has the biggest multiplier effect being the biggest job creator and this G20 meeting will lead to more job creation in J&K.

Praising Kashmir for its pristine beauty, Kant said, there is no better film destination than Kashmir which has everything to offer to the film industry.

During the occasion, Draft National Strategy for Film Tourism was unveiled in presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, G. Kishan Reddy, K. Ram Charan, Amitabh Kant,

Secretary MIB, Apurva Chandra and G20 chief coordinator, Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

On the side-lines, a panel discussion aligned with the 5th priority of Tourism Working Group, highlighted the challenges associated with country-specific enablers adopted for promoting destinations through films and also emphasised the impact of film tourism on these destinations.

Govt to soon..

Cultural Preservation' as part of the three-day third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20. Union minister Jitendra Singh and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant were also present at the presser.

"We are going to soon declare national tourism policy for India. We are planning global tourism investment summit," Reddy, the minister for Culture and Tourism, said.

He said the Centre is allowing 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in tourism. "Our idea is that without private investment, we cannot become a global destination," he added.

Reddy said the Union government and the Ministry of Tourism are closely working with all the ministries and the state governments to encourage tourism.

"The government of India is also working with all the G20 countries and invited countries for developing sustainable tourism," he added.

Speaking at the presser, G20 Sherpa Kant said India is hosting G20 presidency at a time of "global turbulence".

"Seventy per cent countries are facing debt crisis. People have lost jobs. But, India sees G20 as an opportunity," he said.

"We are growing at a high rate of around seven per cent. We have built 40 million houses, provided toilet connection to 110 million people, drinking water connection to 240 million people. We have made 55,000 kilometres of road. Inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth is our priority. If there is growth, we will be able to lift people out of poverty," he said.

There is a need to transform multilateral financial institutions to ensure that resources flow to emerging countries, Kant said.

He said India thought of making G20 as people's presidency and the country is hosting the G20 events in 60 cities.

"It is unparalleled. The meeting in Kashmir is very very important for us as we believe in peace and prosperity," he said.

Minister of state in Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh said holding the G20 event in Srinagar was an achievement in itself.

"I am sure the delegates coming here will be able to falsify the perception that is sought to be created by vested interests. The common man wants to move on.

"He wants development and progress. He no longer wants to be part of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. He has seen the development across the country and avenues for progress under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. He does not want to miss the bus," Singh said.

He said the G20 meeting in the valley is being carried out in the same format as is being done in other 60 venues.

"This speaks of the mainstream activity happening here," he added.

People have to...

and vote for development, peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

"When I was the chief minister of the erstwhile state, I build up its infrastructure, sanctioned colleges, hospitals, schools and road network to connect this landlocked region with the rest of country.

"If I get yet another chance to serve my people, the Chenab valley will emerge as the hub of economic and educational activities," Azad said.

AC approves construction...

Council also approved Upgradation/Revamping of Transport Nagar, Parimpora(Srinagar) at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.58 Crore.

The project components include laying of road network, sewerage & drainage network, electric network to the tune of Rs. 30.00 Cr. It also includes development of Parks/Green Spaces & contingencies including consultancy to the tune of Rs. 1.58 Cr.

The project aims at decongestion of Srinagar city besides bringing all the transport agencies on one platform outside the city. It also envisages ensuring proper facilities both in terms of road network and other amenities at this vital business center. This project once completed will benefit nearly 76 transport agencies, besides, providing/improving the livelihood of people/traders dealing with various trades.

2 tourists from...

Shaemilaben (51) and Patel Bhikhabhai (51) from Gujarat -- were declared dead, the officials said. A rescue team is on the job and further details are awaited.

NIA court issues...

surrender before it or the investigation agency. "Special Court, Kulgam designated under NIA Act issued proclamation orders under section 82, CrPC against five active terrorists involved in various terror crime and target killing cases, including killing of lady teacher Rajni Bala and bank manager Vijay Kumar in Kulgam district last year," a police spokesperson said in a statement.

On the request of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU), Kashmir, the proclamation orders were issued against Arjumand Gulzar alias Hamza Bhuran, son of Gulzar Ahmed Dar; resident of Kharbatapora Ratnipora Pulwama; Bilal Ahmed Bhat, son of Gh Rasool Bhat, resident of Chaki Cholemd Shopian; Sameer Ahmed Sheikh alias Kamran Bhai, son of Farooq Ahmed Sheikh, resident of Chaki Cholemd Shopian; Abid Ramzan Sheikh, son of Mohd Ramzan Sheikh, resident of Chotipora Shopian and Basit Amin Bhat son of Mohd Amin Bhat resident of Frisal Kulgam, the spokesperson said.

Before the issuance of the proclamation orders, the court had issued open-ended non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against all five, he added.

The proclamation orders were read out at conspicuous places in the villages of the terrorists and copies of the orders were pasted at their houses as well as villages, the police spokesperson said.

Before the initiation of further legal proceedings against the five, the court has given them a chance to surrender before it or the investigation agency, he added.

The police spokesperson said SIU teams, along with local police and magistrates, went to the villages of the terrorists in Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama districts for the execution of the proclamation orders.

CRIME REPORT

Drug peddler arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

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

As per detail, a police party led by SHO Police Station Sheeri during Naka checking at Fatehgarh Sheeri intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During the search, 140 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Majeed Ahmad Sofi son of Abdul Ahad Sofi resident of Fatehgarh Sheeri. 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 Sheeri and investigation has been initiated.

Burglary case solved; thief arrested, stolen gold, diamond ornaments, cash over Rs 5.5 lakh recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Monday solved a burglary case by arresting a thief and recovered stolen gold/diamond ornaments weighing about 940 grams, cash Rs 5,57,500 along with some other items worth Rs 1 Crore.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Bahu Fort by one person namely Rajesh Jain, son of Lt. Pawan Kumar Jain, resident of H No. 89-P Sector 9 Trikuta Nagar Jammu stating that some unknown thieves entered his house and stole gold/diamond ornaments along with some cash and other items worth Rs 1 crore.

On this, FIR No 158/2023 under section 457/380 IPC was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station Bahu Fort led by SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari assisted by SHO Bahu Fort Inspr Shiv Dev Singh and SI Ayub Khan, PSI Ishfaq Ahmed, SI Manzoor Ahmed with the help of CCTV footages of the area rounded up a suspected person namely Sabir, son of Showket Ali, resident of Raipura Thalliya Distt Behriach UP at present Malik Market Jammu. During questioning accused confessed his involvement in the above case and on his disclosure stolen gold/diamond ornaments weighing around 940 Grams cash Rs. 5,57,500 alongwith some other items worth Rs 1 Crore were recovered from his possession. The overall operation was done under the supervision of SP South Mamta Sharma.

Missing woman, daughter traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MIRAN SAHIB: Police on Monday traced a missing woman and her daughter and reunited them with their family.

As per details, a missing complaint was registered at Police Station Miran Sahib regarding missing of a woman and her daughter from their home. In this regard, missing report on May 20, 2023 was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station Miran Sahib led by SDPO R.S Pura Nikhil Gogna assisted by SHO Miran Sahib Inspr. Zaheer Mushtaq with the technical assistance along with timely human intervention finally traced the missing woman and her daughter.

Subsequently family of the missing woman was informed and they were handed over to their family members after completing all the legal formalities.

Trucker nabbed; poppy straw recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: To eradicate the menace of Drugs from the society and take stringent action against Drug Peddlers within district, Kathua Police on Monday nabbed a trucker near Throti area and recovered Poppy Straw (Bhukki) from his possession.

As per details, an information was received through a reliable source at Police Post Ramkot that one truck (PB06AB-7514) coming from Srinagar towards Punjab is indulged in illegal trade of Smuggling of Poppy Straw(Bhukki) like narcotics. Acting on the same, a police team led by SI Sanjeet Singh In-Charge Police Post Ramkot during routine naka/patrolling duty at Dhar Road near Throti area intercepted said truck being driven by a person namely Sunil Masi, son of Kewal Masi, resident of Upal Tehsil Kalanpur District Gurdaspur enrouted from Srinagar towards Punjab. During checking poppy straw (Bhukki) like narcotics was recovered from his possession.

He was arrested and FIR No. 80/2023 under section 8/15 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Billawar.

Shop burgled in broad day light

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: A shop was burgled in broad daylight in Bishnah area on Monday. As per details, two bike borne youth wearing helmets came at once in a shop and took away a necklace of notes worth Rs 5000 from outside the shop and ran away with it. Police was informed which rushed the spot and took cognizance of the matter:

Three die in road mishaps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As per details, two youths who were on a motoreycle was hit by a car coming from the other direction near the bridge at Kaluchak as a result bike fell under the bridge. The car driver fled from the spot after the accident. People informed the police which rushed the spot and shifted both to hospital. During investigation, doctors declared one dead of them as brought dead While other died during treatment. Both have been identified as Noor, son of Sai and Mohammad Noor, son of Yusuf, both residents of Lalyal.

Meanwhile, a bike hit a woman in Dool area of Kishtwar as a result she died. She has been identified as Shahid Baigum, wife of Ejaz Ahmed resident of Dool. The motoreyclist was also injured.

Man found hanging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A youth was found hanging with a tree in Railway West Colony under Trikuta Nagar police station.

According to information, people found a person hanging with a tree in the area and informed police which reached the spot and took body into custody. Body was shifted to morgue for identification while police has registered a case for investigation.

Girl consumes poison, dies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A girl died after she consumed some poisonous substance in suspicious condition in her house at Domana area.

According to information, a girl resident of Akalpur consumed some poisonous substance in her house and was admitted to the hospital for treatment. Later she was referred to Ludhiana, but she died during treatment. Police has registered a case in this context.

Man arrested for kidnapping sister-in-law

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Satwari police have recovered a girl kidnapped from the area and have arrested her brother-in-law.

As per details, a complaint was lodged with the police by a family of a 24-year-old girl resident of Bhaur Camp that their daughter had been kidnapped by her brother-in-law Ajit Singh. It was told that he is a truck driver by profession. Police registered the case and started searching for him. Police got a clue that he has kept the girl in Uttarakhand after which a team went there and recovered her.

Two narco smugglers nabbed with 9 grams heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

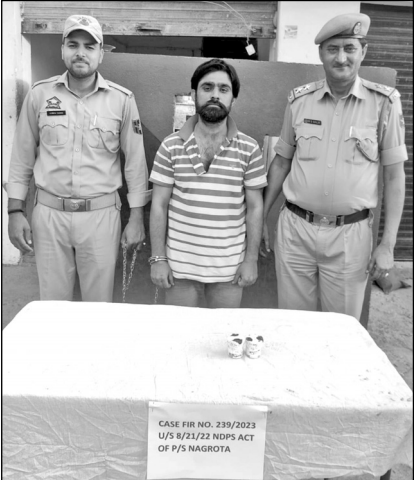
JAMMU/KATHUA: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Monday nabbed two narco smugglers and recovered 9 grams of heroin from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Post Sidhra led by SDPO Nagrota Akash Kohli assisted by SHO Nagrota Inspr Vishav Partap Singh and In-Charge Police Post Sidhra PSI Arun Kumar while on Naka duty at Naka Point Tawi Bridge Sidhra rounded up a suspected person on a vehicle (JK02BC 9825). During search, 6 grams of heroin was recovered from the accused later identified as Murtaza Ali, son of Sikander Ali, resident of Ganga Nagar Bantalab Jammu. He was arrested and FIR No. 239/2023 under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Nagrota.

Police also arrested a person in Kalakote area of Rajouri district with narcotics. Police in an official statement issued from District Police Office stated that a drug peddler namely Israr Talib son of Talib Hussain resident of Ward 06 Thuddi Chaprian in Rajouri town was intercepted during routine police naka at Kharak in Kalakote.

The police team headed by SHO Kalakote Danish Maqbool Dar was performing routine naka duty when this man was stopped for routine frisking and three grams of Heroine like substance was recovered from his possession following which his arrest has been made and case under relevant sections of law has been registered.

In this statement, police further informed that after registration of case under relevant sections of law in respective police station, investigation is going on to unearth the forward and backward linkages of arrested person.



Kashmir coolest place to shoot in India: Ram Charan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: "RRR" star Ram Charan on Monday said Kashmir is the "coolest" place to shoot films in India and it is a surreal feeling to visit the Valley.

The actor was speaking at the 'Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation' event here at Sheri Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), being hosted as a part of the three-day Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20 countries.

Charan said Kashmir was an "untapped" destination. "It will sound cliché, but the coolest place to shoot in

India is Kashmir. I am a second generation actor. My dad has shot extensively in Kashmir," the actor, son of cinema veteran Chiranjeevi, said.

Charan said he visited Kashmir for the first time in 1986 and last shot for a movie in the Valley in 2016.

"I have shot in this auditorium (SKICC) in 2016. So, visiting Kashmir in Summer feels like an achievement for me. This is such a surreal feeling. It has been 95 years of existence of the film industry, (but) it will take them another 95 years to explore Kashmir. It is untapped, it is virgin," the

Kashmir finest destination for film shooting: India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is the finest destination for film shooting, India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Monday, as the three-day third tourism working group meeting of the powerful grouping kick-started here.

He said the Kashmir Valley has been attracting filmmakers due to its unique nature, which has something for everyone.

"Kashmir is not just a destination but a unique experience. Kashmir is an amazing destination because of Alpine forests, streams etc. There is no better destination than Kashmir as it has something to offer to everyone. It has everything," Kant said.

He was addressing the delegates from the G20 countries on the side event 'Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation'. The event is a part of the third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20 countries

being held in the city.

"We believe in peace and prosperity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes tourism has a multiplier effect and it is a job creator. This destination is unique because no Bollywood movie was complete without a shoot in Kashmir. No romance in India was complete without Kashmir," he said.

He added that Kashmir is the finest destination to shoot movies, especially of the romance genre.

"We will help you to bring more and more romance and glamour to your films," Kant said addressing the event.

Referring to famous movies which were shot in Kashmir, Kant said "Bobby" -- the 1973 Rishi Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia starrer -- which was shot in a cottage in Gulmarg, became a household word in India.

"Kashmir Ki Kali", "Jab Jab Phool Khilay" were also shot and went on became

hits, he added.

"This has led to 370 films taking permission to shoot in Kashmir," the India's G20 Sherpa said.

He said while many filmmakers went to Switzerland and elsewhere for shooting, many international movies were shot in India.

"It has been a two way process Natu Natu (the Oscar-winning song from the movie "RRR") was shot in presidential palace of Ukraine. So, it is a two way process," Kant said.

About 60 foreign delegates arrived here on Monday for the tourism working group meeting of the G20 countries, officials said.

This is the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - in August 2019.

Material recovery facility transforming Jammu into clean, green city

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu city is rapidly transforming into a "clean and green city", with noticeable improvements in cleanliness in streets, footpaths, flyovers and residential areas.

The city is making significant progress towards achieving zero waste and at the forefront of this positive change is the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as the 'Swachhla Kendra' (cleanliness centre), established in 2021.

The first-ever MRF in Jammu and Kashmir on the outskirts of the city operates under the collaboration of the Regional and Urban Development Agency (RUDA)

and the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). It employs a sustainable approach to integrated plastic waste management and efficient recycling within the city.

"This MRF in Jammu is the first of its kind. We have established it in partnership with the Jammu Municipal Corporation. It has been operational for almost three years now, with a daily capacity to handle five tonnes of waste. Currently, we collect, segregate, and recycle approximately 150 to 200 tonnes of trash every month," Sajev Arora, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RUDA, told PTI.

Equipped with state-of-the-

art technology, the MRF collects, separates, and processes dry waste before sending it to recycling centres. As a result, it significantly contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the effort is to make the city clean and green, he said.

"To date, we have collected 7,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste, which we have successfully segregated and recycled. From an environmental perspective, every kilogram of plastic waste collected indirectly prevents three kilograms of carbon emissions. Through our efforts, we have already reduced 20,000 to 22,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions in the atmosphere," Arora said.

