

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**

**LG calls for...**

defining feature of our great nation and it inspires everyone to ensure peace, progress and prosperity for all," the Lt Governor said.

Responding to the demands including Multi-storey parking at Hazratbal and widening of road, the Lt Governor assured that appropriate steps will be taken in this regard and it will be ensured that these demands are fulfilled at the earliest.

The Lt Governor also assured every support from the government in the development of Ziyarats and other religious places.

He called for a comprehensive strategy to explore all possibilities to increase the tourist influx in Hazratbal, Charar-e-Sharief and other prominent religious places in J&K.

Spiritual leaders, Waqf officials, senior officers of Police and Civil administration and prominent citizens were present.

**Eid-ul-Azha...**

is ordered that the holiday on account of "Eid-ul-Azha" shall now be observed on 29th & 30th June, 2023 (Thursday & Friday) instead of 28th & 29th June, 2023 (Wednesday & Thursday) in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

**8 killed, 17...**

son of Mohd Naik, resident of Gundana Doda; Sadiq Ali (24), son of Farooq Ahmed, resident of Gundana Doda; Bilala Ahmed (24), son of Ghulam Rasool Butt, resident of Gundana Doda; Mohd Shafi Butt (24), son of Abdul Aziz Butt, resident of Gundana Doda, Tariq Irfan (27), son of Farooq Ahmed, resident of Nalhti Bhaderwah; Rafiq Ahmed (28), son of Abdul Ahmed, resident of Gundana Doda; Nadeem Ahmed (27), son of Abdul Rashid Malik, resident of Udhyan Pur Doda; Nazir Ahmed (35) resident of Doda and Riaz Ahmed (24), son of Manzoor Ahmed resident of Gundana Doda.

A group of tourists present at Guldanda meadows saw the vehicle rolling down the hill and raised an alarm, following which a rescue operation was launched immediately by police and locals.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad has expressed shock and grief over the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Bhaderwah.

In a condolence message, Azad said, "I send my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families and wish those injured a speedy recovery."

Soon after learning about this devastating road accident, Azad asked party workers in the area to provide assistance to injured and victim families.

He has stressed on the administration to provide compensation to the next of kin of those killed in the accident and those who got injured in this road accident. Azad has prayed for speedy recovery of injured persons.

Deputy Commissioner, Doda Vishesh Mahajan, who along with SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom visited the injured in the hospital, said the reason behind the accident would be known only after an investigation.

However, he said the injured driver informed him that his steering wheel got loose and he lost control of the vehicle.

In another incident, one Javaid Ahmad died and four others sustained injuries when their vehicle plunged into a deep gorge in the Bhalla area of Doda, officials said.

The injured have been sent to a hospital, they said.

In Ramban district, two people Mohammad Afzal and Mohammad Azmat were killed when their car skidded off the road and fell over 200 metres into a gorge along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Rampari, officials said.

They said another person, Shabir Ahmad Malik, was critically injured in the accident and has been sent to a hospital by the rescue team.

Dr Jitendra Singh also termed the loss of lives in the road accidents as "unfortunate" and said two of the seriously injured are being airlifted to Jammu for specialised treatment.

"All further assistance, as required, will be provided. I am in constant touch," he wrote on Twitter after hearing about the accident on the Bhaderwah-Kishtwar highway.

**Opposition can only...**

decided to give the BJP a landslide victory," Modi said at his party's 'Mera Booth Sabse Majboot' programme.

"A new word is getting popular these days and that is 'guarantee.' All these parties are a guarantee of corruption. They are a guarantee of scams worth lakhs and crores. A few days ago, there was a photo session (apparent reference to the Patna gathering). If you look at those who were part of it, you will realise that together they are a guarantee of at least a Rs 20 lakh crore scam," he said.

The scams committed by the Congress alone are worth lakhs of crores of rupees, including the 1.86 lakh crore coal scam, 1.74 lakh crore 2G scam, Rs 70,000 crore Commonwealth Games scam and Rs 10,000 crore MNREGA scam, he said.

From helicopters to submarines, there is not an area where the "Congress hand" of corruption has not reached, Modi said, in a dig at the party's electoral symbol of hand.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) too has faced allegations of scams worth thousands of crores of rupees, he said, citing the fodder scam, alaktara scam, animal husbandry department scam and flood relief scam.

The list of these scams is so long that "even courts are now tired of them" and awarding punishment in one case after another, Modi said.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) is facing accusations of amassing properties worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore illegally, he said.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) is accused of scams of Rs 23,000 crore including the Rose Valley scam, Sharda scam, teachers recruitment scam, cow-smuggling scam and a coal scam, Modi said, adding that the people of West Bengal will never forget these instances of corruption.

As to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), there are allegations of scams of nearly Rs 70,000 crore against it, including the Maharashtra Cooperative Bank

scam, Maharashtra irrigation scam and illegal mining scam, he said, adding that the list is too long.

These parties' "scam meter is never down", the prime minister said.

"You people (BJP workers) are innovative, make a good scam meter (of opposition parties). These parties only have the experience of scams. If they have any guarantee, it is the guarantee of scams. The country will decide whether it will accept the guarantee of scams or not," he said, almost sounding the poll bugle ahead of Assembly polls in various states and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"If they have a guarantee of scams, then Modi also has one guarantee. My guarantee is that of action against every scamster, action against every thief. Those who have looted the poor and the country, they will be held accountable," he said.

The Opposition's common minimum programme is to save themselves from action against corruption, the prime minister added.

**Ex-Tehsildar Reasi...**

proceedings were initiated for such land. The collector land acquisition, Addl Deputy Commissioner issued final award on 6th of September 2017 and before that Tehsildar Reasi was asked to work out the individual share of land owners over the shamilat (and, as the land involved in the final award stands recorded as shamilat-deh Hasab Rasad Khevat Maqbooz Malakan. The Tehsildar reported to the Collector in 2018 that the shamilat land under acquisition was in the physical possession of Sukhdev Singh and others. However, as per revenue record, there was no Girdawari on the names of beneficiaries in the year 1971. The revenue Officials too submitted a report that the owners are eligible to receive the compensation.

It surfaced during the course of verification that the shamilat land under acquisition was not under the self cultivation of said person/persons in Kharif 1971 and no one amongst them was entitled for compensation. In-fact, the compensation was supposed, to be credited to Government exchequer under the appropriate head of account. Some of the beneficiaries agitated before the High Court pursuant to which the petition was disposed by giving liberty to petitioners to approach Tehsildar Reasi for seeking redressal to their grievances. The Tehsildar summoned the beneficiaries and the matter was under examination before him. The probe conducted further revealed that the persons in whose favour the land compensation stands released are not the rightful claimants of land compensation. The total amount of Rs.78,48,750/- was disbursed in violation of the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, Agrarian Reform Act, rules made there under and Circular instructions issued by the Revenue department (Rs.5,60,625/- in favour of each beneficiary). In this manner, the then officers/officials so found responsible, by abuse of their official positions and in lieu of criminal conspiracy with private beneficiaries disbursed the compensation in violation to the prescribed provisions to confer the wrongful gain to themselves as well as beneficiaries.

**Al-Badr terrorist...**

Incriminating material, arms and ammunition including a pistol with live rounds and a grenade were recovered from the site of the encounter and taken into case records for further investigation, the spokesman added.

In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

**J&K Bank wins...**

the international achievement, Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "With Eid jublations already in the air, the golden recognition of the Bank's process innovation at such an internationally prestigious platform has added further radiance to our collective delight. Besides, I feel very happy to see our IT-led initiatives leading the bank's transformational journey and receiving such impressive acknowledgment."

"As a forward-looking financial institution, I believe that such honours will boost our commitment further to provide efficient, secure and convenient banking services to our valued clients across the country in digital as well as traditional domains for enhanced banking experience", he added.

Meanwhile, in his comments on the innovations nominated for the awards program, CEO Infosys Finae Sanat Rao said "The Infosys Finae Innovation Awards 2023 celebrates banks that prioritize innovation-led digital transformation. The nominees and winners in the awards program exemplify the relentless pursuit of the participating banks in delivering enhanced value to their customers and stakeholders. I extend my warmest congratulations to all the recognized banks and wish them continued success in 2023 and beyond.

**Man found hanging...**

station and later blocked the Jammu-Poonch National Highway near Nowshera bridge. They demanded an in-depth investigation into Kumar's death, claiming that he might have fallen victim to a conspiracy.

The protesters dispersed after the police officers who visited the scene assured them that the investigation into the matter has already been initiated and will be taken to a logical conclusion, the officials said.

**LG reviews Traffic...**

real-time events and to mitigate the effects of a breakdown, he added.

The Lt Governor instructed the officials of the Traffic Police to utilize Integrated Command and Control Centres for effective traffic, transit and travel demand management.

He directed the Divisional Commissioners and ADGPs to overall supervise the traffic management in their respective divisions.

The meeting also discussed utilization of Mughal Road, alternate routes, public utilities along Mughal road and traffic management at Pahalgam and Sonamarg. Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP gave a detailed briefing on the action plan for the Yatra.

RK Goyal, ACS Home; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; ADGPs; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs and senior officers attended the meeting.

**Amarnath Yatra this...**

(Vyas Purnima) on Monday, July 3, he said.

Chihari Mubarak will be taken to the historic Shankaracharya Temple here on

August 16 and Sharika Bhawani Temple a day later, Giri said. He also said rituals for 'Chhari Sthapana' will be performed at Shri Amareshwar Temple Dashnami Akhara here on August 19.

After performing 'Chhari Pujan' at Dashnami Akhara, Srinagar on the occasion of 'Nag Panchami' on August 21, Giri will carry the holy mace to the Amarnath cave shrine to perform 'pujan' and have 'darshan' early morning on 'Shravan Purnima' i.e. August 31.

The holy mace yatra will have night halts at Pahalgam on August 26 and August 27, at Chandanwari on August 28, at Sheshnag on August 29 and at Panchtarani on August 30, Giri said.

He advised sadhus and members of civil society who intend to join the Chhari Mubarak yatra to get registered saying only those registered with valid yatra permits will be allowed during the pilgrimage.

**MHA holds review...**

traditional methods of securing the yatra routes, was underlined, besides using search-and-rescue dogs at all places, including near the cave shrine, in order to respond quickly in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

A team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) canines has already been deployed so that the dogs are acclimatised with the height and cold weather, they said.

A team of experts and the NDRF will undertake an aerial survey of the upper reaches to provide early warnings for any glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) or flash flood-like situation, the sources said.

A major change effected this time in the security apparatus is the deployment of the mountain-warfare trained personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at the cave shrine in place of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The ITBP, officials said, is adept at undertaking rescue operations at a high altitude and hence, it has been given the task at the cave shrine this time.

The CRPF has been traditionally guarding the cave shrine, located at a height of 3,888 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, and some vital pilgrim camps en route for decades.

The CRPF will now be present just below the stairs of the cave shrine, even as the ITBP and Border Security Force (BSF) will guard about half-a-dozen camps that were earlier guarded by the CRPF, the lead internal security force of the country.

The sources had earlier told PTI that this new arrangement was made keeping in mind the "emerging security threats and challenges" and in accordance with the "requirements of the Jammu and Kashmir Police".

As a huge number of CRPF units have been inducted in ethnic violence-hit Manipur and for the panchayat polls in West Bengal, the force has been asked to secure the yatra route in the Kashmir valley, where the pilgrims will board buses before starting the uphill journey.

The Amarnath Yatra pilgrims travel through two routes -- Baltal and Pahalgam.

Last year, 3.45 lakh people visited the cave shrine and the figure could go up to five lakh this time, the officials said.

**Pilgrims arrive in...**

is a group of 28 people," a devotee, Surinder Kumar, told PTI.

Ajay Singh of Lucknow said, "I am very happy to undertake the Amarnath Yatra for the first time. Before coming here, we were on a 15-day tour of various pilgrimage centres, including Haridwar and Mata Vaishnodevi shrine."

The 62-day Amarnath Yatra will commence on July 1 from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

The first batch of pilgrims, including a group of Sadhus, will leave for the yatra on June 30.

The local administration conducted various safety and disaster management drills at the base camp on Tuesday, an official said.

**Situation from Kashmir...**

therefore, the specific law on sedition needed to be there too.

Justice Awasthi asserted that while considering the usage of the law on sedition the panel found that "the present situation right from Kashmir to Kerala and Punjab to the North-East is such that the law on sedition is necessary to safeguard the unity and integrity of India".

He also said that the sedition law being a colonial legacy was not a valid ground for its repeal and several countries, including the US, Canada, Australia and Germany, have their own such laws.

In its report submitted to the government last month, the 22nd Law Commission headed by Justice Awasthi supported retaining section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) with safeguards to prevent its misuse.

The recommendation triggered a political uproar with several opposition parties alleging that it was an attempt to stifle dissent and voices against the ruling party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year.

While the government said it will take an "informed and reasoned" decision on the Law Commission report after consulting all stakeholders and that the recommendations were "persuasive" but not binding, the Congress has alleged that the government wants to make the sedition law more "draconian".

Referring to the "procedural safeguards" recommended by the commission, Awasthi told PTI that the preliminary inquiry will be held by a police officer of the rank of inspector or above.

The inquiry will be done within seven days from the occurrence of the incident and the preliminary inquiry report will be submitted to the competent government authority for permission for lodging of FIR in this regard, he added.

"On the basis of the preliminary report, if the competent government authority finds any cogent evidence with regard to commissioning of the offence of sedition, it may grant permission. It is only after the grant of permission that the FIR under Section 124 A of the IPC shall be lodged," he said.

"We have also recommended that the central government may issue guidelines which are to be followed in case of commission of any such offence and the said guidelines may clarify as to under what circumstances the said offence was committed," the former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court said.

He also said that the law panel has not made any recommendation for enhancement of punishment "as such".

**SSP Poonch holds introductory meeting with civil society**



SSP Poonch Vinay Sharma chairing a meeting.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: An introductory meeting was convened by SSP Poonch Vinay Sharma in conference hall of Dak Bungalow Poonch in which the PRIs, respectables and prominent senior citizens of Poonch participated.

The participants discussed /shared their problems and other burning issues pertain-

ing to public of Poonch especially narcotics, insurgency, traffic rules violations, etc. During the meeting SSP Poonch them that we will leave no stone unturned and surely address these menaces on priority jointly with the help of general public.

SSP Poonch also lauded the brotherhood and communal harmony of Distt Poonch.

He warned that anti social and anti national elements will not be spared and they will have to face the law. AddSP Poonch Mushim Ahmed, DySP DAR Poonch Mohammad Shafiq and DySP Hdqr Poonch Afrat Hussain, Javed Manhas SHO Poonch, Insp Rajnesh Kumar were also present in the meeting. The meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks. Prominent persons who also attended the meeting were Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Surjan Singh, Gureharan Singh Joint Secy Singh Sabha Gurdwara Poonch ,Sr Adv Mohd Zaman , Fahad Mir and Pardeep Khanna.

**Bhajan Kirtan, Hawan, Puran Aahuti mark day two of Sarthal Devi Yatra in Kishtwar**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: The second day of 3-day world famous Shri Ashtadash Bhuja Mata Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra was marked with Bhajan Kirtan, Hawan and Puran Aahuti here at the temple of Maa Sarthal Devi.

It is pertinent to mention that Sarthal Mata, considered as re-incarnation of Goddess Durga, is the chief deity of Hindus in Kishtwar and adjoining areas. Originally made from the stones by locals under patronage of Raja Agar Dev of Kishtwar, this holy temple was renovated by Maharaja Hari

Singh in 1936 from the wood of Dayalwan and Deviyun-van forest. Situated at approximately 6000 feet, this scenic temple remains snow clad during winters. A number of peaks in the Pir Panjal Range are visible from the temple.

The annual three-day Yatra is being organized by Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust under the patronage of Dr Karan Singh, Sole Trustee and Vikarmaditya Singh Chairman Trustee of the Trust.

The Hawan and other religious rituals were performed today by DC

Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav, ADDC Sham Lal, ACR Varunjeet Charak along with Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council members here at Sarthal Devi Ji Bhawan,

Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman, Shri Sarthal Devi Management Council threw light on the importance of this Yatra. He also thanked Directorate of Tourism and District Administration for making adequate arrangements for the three-day Yatra, in which hundreds of devotees from Kishtwar and beyond took part to seek the blessings of Maa Sarthal Devi Ji.

**VC SKUAST-J addresses faculty members**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology -Jammu, Dr. B. N. Tripathi on Tuesday addressed all the faculty members, scientists of different faculties stationed at Chatha and R. S. Pura Campus of the University.

This was his first interaction with all the faculty members after assuming the charge as Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

The purpose of the address was to share his opinion and road map for the development of the University to enhance its presence at national and International level.

The Vice Chancellor said that it was an immense pride for him to address the faculty of this premium institution of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and he was feeling excited and enthusiastic.

The SKUAST-Jammu is in its initial phase of development "But I am happy to see that in a short span of time it has achieved new heights and that has been possible only due to the tremendous work done by the faculty/ scientists of the university." He further added that National Education Policy is the key to enhancing the quality education and we

are committed to increase ten per cent students every year under NEP. He said "We at SKUAST-Jammu should be passionate in supporting the learning goals of the students."

He emphasised the need to continuously explore ways to improve the quality of education, equipping students with the necessary skills for their future endeavours.

He stressed the importance of keeping pace with advancements and nurturing innovative thinking among students.

"We understand the concerns of our students and assure all of you that efforts will be made to reach out to every student to help him/her to cope with the difficult circumstances," he said. The systems and its relevant solutions shall be designed keeping in mind the concept of optimization and its implementation on a day to day basis. Imparting education through quality learning is my absolute priority. Hence to ensure this, we should continuously evolve our processes through consultation and communication with respective stakeholders to address the issues and concerns timely. We must learn to capitalize on our available resources, which will help us to face the challenges more efficiently.

**West Bengal witnessing 'death of democracy' under Mamata Banerjee: BJP MP Tejasvi Surya**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Tuesday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of organising street violence to secure electoral victories, saying the eastern state is witnessing the "death of democracy" under her leadership.

Surya, who is also the chief of BJP Yuva Morcha, alleged

that right after the conclusion of Assembly polls in West Bengal, Banerjee went on a spree of targeted violence against the BJP workers.

"The high court took cognizance of this unprecedented violence. Even now, we are seeing in panchayat elections...how the West Bengal government is resisting the deployment of central forces,"

he told reporters here after the conclusion of a public meeting organised by the youth wing of Jammu and Kashmir BJP.

"What is happening in West Bengal is the death of democracy under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Even the Supreme Court and the high court have taken cognizance of it," Surya said.

The BJP leader said that she (Banerjee) only knows how to win elections through booth capturing, organising street violence and sheer abuse of state institutions including police.

"Taking a dig at the opposition parties over their recent meeting in Patna, Surya said the event seemed to be more of a conclave for "unem-

ployed" political families rather than a conference of the Opposition.

"In a way, it was a conclave of unemployed political families. The son of Dr Farooq Abdullah, son of Mulayam Singh Yadav, and families of Sharad Pawar, Karuna Nidhi...the meeting in Patna was a conclave of unemployed political families rather than

a conference of opposition parties," the Bengaluru South MP said.

At the Patna meeting, 17 opposition parties, including the Congress, resolved to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in a united manner to defeat the BJP at the Centre. They will meet in Shimla next month to chalk out a joint strategy.