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LG reviews arrangements...

directed the officials to increase the manpower for health, sanitation and other essential services. He welcomed pilgrims from across the country who have arrived at Yatri Niwas for Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage. During the interaction, the Lt Governor also enquired about the facilities.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu informed the Lt Governor that the holding capacity of pilgrims at Samba and Kathua has been increased from the last year and additional buses have been stationed at the key locations of pilgrimage. The 62-day long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will commence on 1st July and it will culminate on 31st August 2023. The Yatra will be flagged off on June 30 from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar.

Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Rahul Yadav, Commissioner, JMC and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces accompanied the Lt Governor.

Over 3 lakh.

Bhandari informed, "Both the yatra tracks have been illuminated to facilitate the movement of the pilgrims smoothly," he added.

The CEO said at vulnerable points, helmets have been made available for the pilgrims so that they can protect themselves from shooting stones and landslides during heavy rains.

Mountain rescue teams have been deployed en route to the cave shrine for quick evacuation, he added.

Taking note of the flash floods that killed 15 people last year, Bhandari said no pilgrim will be allowed to stay near the cave shrine during the night.

Public addressing systems as well as video walls have been placed in all the camps to inform the passengers about important information.

A major effort has been made to make telecom available on the entire track, in which OFC cables have been laid on both the tracks by the service providers so that internet facility and telecom facility are available at all times, he said.

The shrine board, Rural Development Department, various municipal corporations, and development authorities have taken a joint initiative to set up around 5,100 separate toilets this year for the Yatra, Bhandari said.

Meanwhile, the city administration on Thursday began the process for on-the-spot registration of devotees arriving here for the pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

Over 1,500 pilgrims, including sadhus, have arrived in Jammu city for the yatra to the 3,880-metre shrine starting on July 2.

While an on-the-spot registration centre has been set up for unregistered pilgrims in Shalimar area of the city, a special camp for registration of sadhus has been set up at Purani Mandi-based Ram temple complex.

Amid tight security arrangements, over 1000 pilgrims have arrived at the Bhagwati-Nagar base camp here for their onward journey to Kashmir, officials said.

The 62-day-long pilgrimage will commence on July 1 from the twin tracks the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

The registration of unregistered pilgrims arriving here from all parts of the country has begun on-the-spot at the counter here, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Nargesh Singh told PTI.

He said all facilities for smooth registration have been put in place.

"The registration of sadhus has begun in Jammu from today. All arrangements have been put in place for best possible facilities to the sadhus", Tehsildar Jai Singh said.

The enthusiasm among pilgrims arriving here for the pilgrimage was palpable. Sanjeev Kumar of Uttar Pradesh said it is the fourth time that he is visiting the cave shrine.

"The registration process has improved from manual to online. This has done away with the process of sitting in long queues in hot weather conditions", he said.

Another pilgrim, 69-year-old Jagdish Raj from Delhi said, "For my entire life, I have been facilitating people planning to go on the pilgrimage, but could not go myself. However, I am very happy that I am now going to pay obeisance at Amarnath".

The sadhus have arrived here after completing the Char Dham Yatra to Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath shrines in Uttarakhand.

"We are here for the registration, which began today...It is for the sixth time, I am going to Amarnath", another pilgrim Ramesh Chander Giri said.

CJI to inaugurate...

Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief J&K Legal Services Authority and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority. Judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will also be present in the inaugural session of the Meet.

The All India Legal Services Authorities Meet, scheduled to be held on 30th June and 01st July, is being hosted by the Government of J&K and Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority and is being attended by Chief Justices of High Courts, Executive Chairpersons, State Legal Services Authorities, Chairpersons, High Court Legal Services Committees, Member Secretary, NALSA, Member Secretary SCLSC, Member Secretaries SLASAs, Member Secretaries HCLSCs, members of LADCS, panel lawyers, law students, faculty and students of various law universities, members of prominent NGOs amongst others.

The Meet will deliberate on the future course of action for Legal Services Authorities, targets and various challenges present before it and the steps to be

undertaken to strengthen and streamline legal aid programmes in the country.

CJI pays obeisance...

of India was received by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the official spokesman of the board, said.

The CJI was accompanied by the Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

The CEO briefed the dignitaries about the continuing initiatives being taken by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under the chairmanship of J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure for facilitating the progressively increasing number of pilgrims to the holy Shrine.

The CJI complemented the efforts being initiated by the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for welfare and providing facilities to the visiting pilgrims to make their pilgrimage hassle-free.

After paying obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine, the CJI visited Bhairon Ghati to pay obeisance at the Bhairon Baba Temple.

PM Modi to...

The Monsoon Session is likely to begin in the third week of July.

The party's organisation, including in some states, may also see some changes as its top brass makes its choices for key positions as the campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls intensifies in the coming months, sources said.

Modi held a meeting with Shah and Nadda on Wednesday. This came after closed-door meetings involving Shah and Nadda, among others, to take stock of organisational and political affairs.

The BJP is also making hectic preparations for assembly polls scheduled in several states this year, more so as the Congress has shown some bounce following its big win in Karnataka.

Elections are due in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Mizoram later this year, and the Congress will be the B-JP's main challenger in the first three states.

In Telangana, where the BJP has made big gains to emerge as a key player, the Congress has been pulling out all stops to regain its lost turf and grow as the main challenger to the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi.

Eid prayers pass...

including stepping up security measures, to ensure a safe and smooth celebration of the festival.

Eid-ul-Adha is observed to commemorate the spirit of sacrifice and devotion to the Almighty.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also greeted the people on the occasion. "Eid Mubarak! Greetings to the people on the holy festival of Eid-ul-Adha. The joyous occasion inspires each one of us to follow the path of love, compassion & forgiveness. May the festival of Eid-ul-Adha usher in peace, prosperity & happiness for all," Sinha tweeted.

Senior BJP leader Devesh Singh Rana also exchanged Eid greetings with the people at Sidhra Eidgah and Lower Rangoora Masjid, hoping this auspicious occasion will usher Jammu and Kashmir in peace and harmony.

"Pray such festivals to be an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to strengthen the bonds of inclusiveness, share our joys with others and serve the humanity", Rana said. He also prayed for the wellness of the people.

Adding 107 more...

on the occasion, the Chief Secretary directed for onboarding rest of the services as early as possible for making 'Bhramstachar Mukht Jammu and Kashmir' a reality.

Dr. Mehta appreciated the proactive role played by the IT department and its concerted efforts for improving accessibility and ease of use of online government services under the PSGA.

He placed a strong emphasis on the need to generate awareness among the general public about the online services offered by the Jammu and Kashmir government. He instructed for creation of online tutorials to help citizens learn about it and take advantage of the various citizen-friendly services available online.

In addition, the Chief Secretary discussed potential ways to increase both the accessibility and availability of these services, with the goal of ensuring that they are available round the clock with minimal downtime.

As part of the broader Digital J&K initiative, which aims at improving the lives of citizens in J&K through the use of digital technology, the Chief Secretary discussed several measures to publicise the government's service delivery and performance. These measures include the use of digital billboards throughout the districts to promote awareness of the government's efforts and achievements.

Chief Secretary also discussed various other initiatives and online services that can be launched in the upcoming days for various citizen-friendly services and ensuring transparent governance. He took strong note of building violations and instructed officers to devise digital surveillance measures to curb the menace within three months.

Dr. Mehta discussed opportunities in the digital arena for implementing artificial intelligence-based technologies for further improvement in governance and increasing accountability of departments and their respective officers while ensuring transparency and efficiency in departments. He said that AI technologies can help identify poor-performing human resources and rationalise government resources in a scientific manner.

During the launch, the Chief Secretary called upon the IT Department to further improve online systems to facilitate accountability of officers and track inaction and failure on part of respective officers/officials. He also called for a campaign to sensitize all government officials about the online 'Government to Citizen Services' and their associated timelines.

The Chief Secretary asked the department to ensure that the Auto Appeal System is publicised and a definite timeline is fixed for each of the 210 online citizen ser-

ices for general awareness and understanding of all the stakeholders.

The departments whose services have been given the auto appeal feature today includes Agriculture, Labour & Employment, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Revenue and Finance. The measures taken by the Jammu and Kashmir administration have ensured accountability and transparency to a great extent, thereby making Jammu and Kashmir a leader in the country, as remarked by the Chief Secretary.

Those who were present during this event includes Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner JMC; CEO, JaKeGA; Scientists from NIC and other concerned officers.

Think, rethink consequences...

think and rethink about the consequences of implementing the UCC. They should keep all this under consideration and instead of pushing it through, they should think of the consequences. Lest, there might be a storm," he added.

His remarks come two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for UCC and wondered how a country can function with dual laws that govern personal matters.

Abdullah also welcomed the pilgrims visiting Jammu and Kashmir for the annual Amarnath yatra.

"I welcome the yatra. I pray to Allah that it is successful and the yatriss return with blessings," he said.

CEO SASB visits...

the preparations being undertaken by the concerned departments to ensure a smooth and successful pilgrimage for the devotees. He emphasized the significance of timely completion of all necessary arrangements to facilitate a safe and comfortable yatra experience for the pilgrims.

Bhandari had a detailed review of infrastructure, status of the track, setting up of tentage facilities, toilet complexes, sanitation activities, restoration of water and electricity connections, telecom facilities, other logistical facilities during his visit to Sheshmag camp, holy Cave and the Neelgrath helipad.

The CEO asked the concerned departments to ensure that all necessary services are made easily accessible to the pilgrims at railway station, airports, on travel routes and Yatra base camps.

He impressed upon the officials to create a strong healthcare and health emergency infrastructure with additional teams of doctors and nursing staff. He also directed for proper arrangements of regular ambulances, Heli-ambulance service and oxygen cylinders.

He also took stock of the arrangements and facilities being made available for the concerned staff and sanitation workers deployed at the Base Camps.

Rousing reception to...

and made them awestruck. The spree of devotional performances presented by troupes of Information Department (MIPR Kathua) which besides engaging the devotees electrified the atmosphere amidst the chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', 'Jai Baba Barfani' and 'Bham Bham Bhole'.

Later, the DC Kathua alongwith PRI and devotees inaugurated newly installed 'Selfie Point' depicting the town down point of Gateway of J&K which has become cynosure of all eyes. The newly added feature of Wall Art showcasing Basohli Art and Dogra Folk culture was another attraction for devotees entering J&K through Lakhampur Corridor. Besides, a large Helium Balloon welcoming the Yatriss is garnering all eyes at Lakhampur entry point.

Ramban gets highway...

On the eve of the Amarnath Yatra, said Dr Jitendra, the new flyover is also ready



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP workers meeting at Ramban.

which will ease the traffic jams and considerably reduce the traffic between Jammu to Ramban and further to Srinagar.

Dr Singh said, on one side of Ramban is Asia's longest tunnel Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee tunnel and on the other side is new Qazigund tunnel plus smaller tunnels. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the work on National Highway beyond Ramban towards Srinagar is also proceeding on fast track with a series of tunnels on the way which would cut down the journey time.

The travel time from Jammu to Srinagar will be reduced to just around 4 hours, he said. Dr Jitendra said, it is left to the future historians and analysts to answer why in the last so many decades the entire Ramban region was allowed to languish and suffer because of lack connectivity in spite of the fact some of the well known Ministers in the central as well as state governments were elected from this area. He said, it is our good fortune that all these pending works were destined to be accomplished in the last 9 years when Narendra Modi was the Prime Minister and BJP represented this Lok Sabha Constituency.

Prices of tomato...

tomatoes as the heavy rainfall has adversely affected crop production. Every monsoon, there is a price hike in vegetables, especially mountain-grown vegetables because of landslides and increased transportation time", Chamail Singh, a vegetable vendor told PTI.

CRIME REPORT

Bakery shop theft case solved; accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: Police on Thursday solved Vijaypur bakery shop theft case by arresting notorious thief and recovering stolen cash & wooden drawer.

Police made all out bids to work out theft case in which cash amounting to rupees 14000.00 along with wooden drawer was stolen from the bakery shop situated near main Bazar Vijaypur, Netaji Academy Lane, while the shopkeeper was engaged in purchasing Ice from nearby Shop. Police had registered FIR No 76/2023 u/s 380 IPC at Police Station Vijaypur and started investigation in blind theft case.

Police conducted investigation in highly professional manner and during the course of investigation Police analysed CCTV footage, compared & shared photos of suspects, applied scientific aid to investigation, made use of manual sources, organised nocturnal raids and succeeded in apprehending the notorious thief.

The arrested notorious thief has been identified as Roshan Lal alias Kaka, son of Kartar Chand, resident of Swankha Morh Vijaypur.

Vijaypur bakery theft case has been solved within 72 hours after the commission of theft by a team of Police officers comprising of SDPO Vijaypur Rohit Gupta, SHO Vijaypur/Tribhawan Khajuria and PSI Ankush Sharma.

Driver injured in road mishap

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: A tralla driver was injured after the vehicle hit with road side divider near Jatwal area of Samba

According to the report, the mishap occurred at Jammu Pathankot National Highway near Jatwal on Thursday morning, when a tralla (PB06AS-7161) moving towards Jammu side from Kathua lost the control near Jatwal area of Samba hit road side divider resulting, the driver of the vehicle got injured and shifted to District Hospital sambha for treatment.

Properties worth lakhs of drug smugglers attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Acting tough against the drug smugglers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Thursday attached properties worth lakhs of drug smugglers in Baramulla.

As per details, a police party led by SDPO Pattan assisted by SHO Police Station Pattan attached an under construction house on land measuring 10 marlas at Main Mohalla Pattan belonging to drug Smuggler namely Barakat Ali Main son of Mohammad Maqbool Main resident of Mian Mohalla Pattan after obtaining legal sanction from competent authorities. The said house was linked to case FIR No. 84/2023 under section 8/22 NDPS Act of Police Station Pattan. The investigation proved that the said immovable property was raised/ used for illicit trafficking by the drug Smuggler.

Similarly, Baramulla Police led by SDPO Kreeri Khalid Ashraf assisted by SHO

Kreeri attached vehicle Hyundai i10 bearing registration number DL2AE-2820 belonging to Abdul Rehman Malik son of Ghulam Mohd resident of Kalantra Payeen after obtaining legal sanction from the competent authorities. The said vehicle was linked to case FIR No 33/2023 under section 8/20, 29 NDPS Act of Police Station Kreeri. The investigation proved that the said movable property was used for Illicit Trafficking by the drug Smuggler.

Samba Admn busts fake registration for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Two buses carrying 68 Shri Amarnath Ji Pilgrims originating from Muzaffarnagar reported at Shri Chichi Mata mandir for e-KYC verification and issuance of RFID Cards. On verification by the vigilant e-KYC Team of District Samba led by District Informatics Officer, it was found that yatra permits of most of the pilgrims were tampered.

On further enquiry from the pilgrims and drivers, it revealed that these passengers got permits from one Rahul Bhardwaj, resident of Muzaffarnagar, an agent of Vikas Bus Services operating from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh in exchange of 7000 rupees per head.

The District Administration Samba under supervision of Abhishek Sharma, District Magistrate Samba and the District SSP, Benam Tosh, immediately swung into action and the district Police took cognizance of the incident. Consequently, an FIR under section 420/468 of IPC has been registered in Police Station Samba. The District Magistrate Muzaffarnagar has also been requested to initiate legal action against the culprits namely Rahul Bhardwaj and others responsible for cheating these gullible pilgrims, so that no innocent pilgrims further fall prey to such kind of frauds.

The pilgrims shall be assisted in getting RFID cards which will be issued after fresh registration. All Yatriss are requested to keep their authentic Yatra Permits along with Aadhaar Card for proper e-KYC verification at the RFID counters and all Yatriss are also requested to keep the RFID cards with them during the Yatra.

Theft cases solved, 3 arrested, 4 vehicles recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Thursday solved two theft cases by arresting three accused and recovered 4 stolen vehicles from their possession.

As per details, a written complaint was lodged at Police Post Digiana by a woman namely Rekha Devi, wife of Rajesh Kumar, resident of Sanjay Nagar Jammu regarding theft of her scooter (JK02BF-8023) from the area. On this, a team of Police Post Digiana led by SDPO South Saechit Sharma assisted by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspr Pankaj Sharma and

In-Charge Police Post Digiana PSI Balbir Singh with the help of CCTV footages of the areas rounded up a suspected person namely Deepak Kumar alias Bndu, son of Darshan Lal, resident of Rajiv Basti Bakshi Nagar Jammu. During questioning, accused confessed his involvement in the above case and on his disclosure stolen scooter along with 2 more Scooties (JK02BL-3222 and JK02BR-2472) were also recovered from his possession. Accused was arrested and FIR No. 160/2023 under section 379 IPC was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar.

The overall operation was done under the supervision of SP South Shaheen Wahid. Meanwhile, Bishnah police also arrested two thieves with a stolen vehicle in the area. On Thursday, the police was checking the vehicles at a Naka and stopped a bullet motor cycle for checking. When rider asked to show the papers, he failed to produce. Both were taken to the police station for questioning and during interrogation, both admitted that they had stolen the vehicle. Duo has been identified as Sahil Massi and Anuj Negi.

Missing boy traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Thursday traced a missing boy and reunited with his family. As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Post Sidhra by the legal heirs of a boy stating that he got missing from his home. In this regard, missing report was entered on May 7, 2023 was registered and investigation started. On this, 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 with the help of CCTV footages of the area finally traced the missing boy. Subsequently family of the missing boy was informed and he was handed over to his family after completing all the legal formalities.

Man dies in accident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man died in an accident in Bathindi area on Thursday. According to the information, Farooq Ahmed, son of MY Khan, resident of Chhanni Himmat who was going on his scooter was hit by the Matador coming from the other direction as a result he got injured. He was taken to GMC vjeer he has died during treatment. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

Man dies after hit by train

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARI BRAHMANA: A man died after he was hit by a train in Bari Brahmana area on Thursday. According to the information, Rahul Kumar, son of Subhash Kumar, resident of Billawar was hit by a train in Bari Brahmana area in which he was injured. He was taken to the hospital where during investigation doctors declared him brought dead. Police took the body into custody. In this context, further action has been started by registering a case.

Man drowns to death

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man died due to drowning in a canal in Gadigarh area on Thursday. According to the information, Surjit Singh, son of Sundar Singh, resident of Bandurakh was taking bath in the canal of Dadap area on the day, suddenly went into deep water and drowned. Police reached the spot and took out his body.