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confidence to all sections of society, improved investment climate and scripting J&K's bright future," the Lt Governor further added.

With greater commitment and accountability in the system, we have taken decisive steps to empower youth, women, artisans and farmers. A number of measures to address challenges in agriculture and allied sector will improve productivity, infrastructure and stimulate crop diversification, said the Lt Governor.

He also underscored the measures undertaken for creation of infrastructure in agriculture and allied sector, increasing employment opportunities, connecting youth with agriculture, promoting Agriculture startups, and bringing prosperity in the lives of small and marginal farmers.

The people of J&K and the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions are working shoulder to shoulder with the administration in promoting Ease of Living and creating an Aspirational Society. This is the right time for J&K to move ahead and make significant contributions in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, he said.

At Beerwah, the Lt Governor made some important announcements including the allocation of 5000 new houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to the District by the J&K Administration within a period of one week. Prestigious NIFT institute is also coming up at Budgam, he said.

By the end of this month, 100% digitization of land records of Budgam will be done; besides 70% households in the district will be connected with the tap water connection. I am hopeful that by the month of December, all the households of the district will get Nal se Jal, said the Lt Governor.

He also assured funding for promotion of Beerwah caves as tourist destinations, and early completion of recruitment process for Anganwadi Sangini and Sahayika.

The long pending demand of the people of Budgam for district hospital is being fulfilled and 71 kanal of land has been identified for the district hospital. Soon tendering process will be completed and work will be started in coming three months, said the Lt Governor.

Land has also been allotted for setting up the campus of the Cluster University in the district, he noted.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the administration to address the developmental issues and concerns of the people.

The Chewdara Primary Health Center taken up under the Languishing project by JKIDFC will be made operational soon to benefit 30,000 people. Apart from this, Primary Health Centers at Nowpora, Talpora, Hanjura, Aripanthan and Nursing Hostel of Charar-e-Sharif have also been completed under Languishing Project, the Lt Governor said.

The work on the ring road project and Multi-level parking is going on at a fast pace. It is being ensured that all the projects are completed within the time frame, he added.

The Lt Governor also shared the vision for developing Budgam's three important tourist destinations - Tosamaidan, Doodh Pathri and Yusnarg as modern and national level tourist destinations to increase tourist influx which will promote local business and boost the local economy.

He also appreciated District Administration, Police and PRI members for their efforts in making Budgam drug-free.

Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairperson, District Development Council Budgam expressed gratitude towards Lt Governor led UT Government for giving top priority to the welfare of the common people through its citizen centric policies. He also projected various issues of public importance.

Syed Abdul Lateef Bukhari, Mirwaiz Central Kashmir praised the UT Administration for making committed efforts to ensure a peaceful and progressive envi-

ronment in Jammu Kashmir.

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam; PRI members; senior officials and people in large numbers were present.

LG greets people...

equality, brotherhood and social reforms has been guiding humanity on the virtuous path. His life and teachings would continue to inspire the society for all times to come". May this auspicious occasion usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all, the Lt Governor said.

Sinha attends Pratham...

will commence from 1st July. It will also increase the livelihood opportunities and boost the local economy, he added.

The 62-day long Shri Amarnathji Yatra will commence on 1st July this year, simultaneously from both the routes - the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district and it will culminate on 31st August 2023.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; members of the Shrine Board; senior officials of SASB, Army and Lt Governor's Secretariat also attended the Pratham Puja.

Pre-arrest bail of...

process, caused a huge loss to the JMC and the state exchequer by not depositing the requisite Building Permission Fee by adopting fraudulent means. The illegal construction was in gross violation of the setbacks and other norms of the JMC.

Justice Shukla, eminent...

in a democracy can have absolute power. The press is critical to the functioning of a participatory democracy. It is the fourth pillar and has to play its role", he added.

Sharma further maintained that the press has to act as a watchdog, ask questions to people in power, keep an eye on government, investigate and report on issues of public importance. He also spoke about media trials and the tendency to sensationalize matters and encroach into the jurisdiction of courts where they try to impede justice.

Dr. Ashok Bhan threw light on the significance of freedom of press in a democratic society and emphasised that independence of media is a sacred right of citizens in a democracy and its nexus with the political executive seriously impinges on the rights of citizens. He mentioned that the debate on realizing the dream of an independent media will continue throughout the democratic world. The freedom of speech and expression available to the media needs to be nurtured very carefully in the service of citizens, he added.

Director (Seminars) of IIPA (J&K Regional Branch), KB Jandial, spoke about Sat Paul Sahni's life and career in journalism. "Sahni had a long career in journalism who represented many prestigious news organizations. His contribution towards promotion of Ladakh tourism cannot be forgotten", he said.

Dr. Alka Sharma presented vote of thanks and paid tributes to Sat Paul Sahni.

Dr. Sharma acknowledged Sahni's contribution in establishing the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others the event was attended by media veterans, senior retired officials, students of journalism besides other prominent citizens and members of the media fraternity.

Ankurarpanam held in...

get the grace of the Lord. Sastras prescribe doing Ankurarpanam or Beejavapanam, sowing of seeds in sacred mud pots will be done 9, 7, 5, 3 days or at least one day before the festival. This ritual is performed in the evenings as the dictum has its basis in astrological prin-

ciples. As Chandra-the Moon God is said to be the "Sasyakaraka" - the controller of plants, the seed sowing ceremony is performed in nights only before every festival.

Agamas, the holy texts also mention that the sprouts that emanate from the seeds imply the successful celebration of the feste.

From June 4 to 7, other Vaidika rituals will be performed while on June 8, Maha Samprokshanam will be observed between 7:30 AM and 8:15 AM in the auspicious Mithuna Lagnam.

From 9:30 AM onwards, Darshan for devotees will commence.

One of the chief priests of Tirumala Temple Sri Venugopala Deekshitulu, Kankanabhatter Sri Ramakrishna Deekshitulu, DyEOs Sri Gunabhushan Reddy, Sri Sivaprasad, EE Sri Sudhakar, DyEE Sri Raghu Verma, AEO Sri Krishna Rao, AE Sri Seetaramaraju, Superintendent Sri Subrahmanyam and others were present.

SFs alert to...

push narcotics, weapons and terrorists into the valley," he said.

Asked about the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, the IG said the BSF will ensure a peaceful pilgrimage. "Amarnath Yatra is a coordinated effort of various agencies under the guidance of J&K UT Government and Jammu and Kashmir Police. We fulfil the role assigned to us very well. We will ensure that the yatra is conducted peacefully," he added.

About the walkathon, he said the BSF wanted to send out a message to the rest of the country that there is peace, prosperity and development in Kashmir. "Our endeavour is to organise programmes which will also inspire the Kashmiri youth," he added.

Train Crash: PM...

Central Coromandel Express, which were carrying around 2,000 passengers, and a goods train occurred around 7 PM on Friday near the Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore, about 250 km south of Kolkata and 170 km north of Bhubaneswar.

Seventeen coaches were derailed and severely damaged in the accident, trapping hundreds of passengers. Both passenger trains were at a high speed and it has been cited by experts as one of the main reasons for the high number of casualties.

From a vantage point high above the ground, the disaster site looked as if a powerful whirlwind had thrown the coaches like toys on top of each other. Closer to the ground, bloodied, disfigured bodies and dismembered body parts lay emmeshed, creating a grotesque sight.

Large cranes were deployed to move the wreckage and gas cutters were used to extricate the bodies from the mangled, toppled coaches.

The rescue operation was wrapped up Saturday afternoon and restoration work started. The injured were admitted to four hospitals.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that a signal was given to Coromandel Express to enter the main line but it was taken off and the train entered the loop line, where it crashed into a goods train parked there. The Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express which was coming at high speed crashed into the coaches of Coromandel Express that had scattered on the adjacent track. Citing reports till Saturday evening, officials said 288 people were killed in the accident. As many as 1,175 people were admitted at various hospitals, including private ones, out of which 793 have been released and 382 were undergoing treatment, Odisha government officials said at around 8 PM Saturday. All except two patients are stable, they said.

Bar Association Rajouri and Judicial Employees Welfare Association Rajouri jointly have expressed condolence over the death of passengers in tragic accident which took place in Odisha. A two minute silence was observed and every one prayed for departed soul and early recovery for injured victims.

Senior Citizens' Club (Regd) Udhampur (SCCU) also paid tribute to those who lost their life in yesterday's train accident at Balasore (Orissa) by organizing a program at Club House Shivnagar Udhampur.

CRIME REPORT

Two arrested with opium, poppy straw

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JHAJJAR KOTLI: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, police on Saturday nabbed two drug peddlers and recovered 18 grams of opium (liquid) and 720 grams of poppy straw from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Jhajjar Kotli led by SDPO Nagrota Akash Kohli assisted by SHO Jhajjar Kotli Inspr Azad Ahmed while on Naka duty rounded up two suspected persons coming on a vehicle (JK02DD/6349). During search, 18 grams of opium (liquid), 720 grams of poppy straw was recovered from the possession of accused namely Akhil Kumar, son of Angrez Kumar and Mushtaq Ahmed, son of Abdul Gani both residents of Dheerthi Tehsil Katra Distt reasi.

Duo was arrested and FIR No. 117/2023 under sections 8/15/18 /29 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli.

Missing woman traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Police on Saturday traced a missing woman and reunited with her family. As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Post Gadigarh by husband of a missing woman stating that she went missing from her home. In this regard missing report on February 28, 2023 was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Post Gadigarh led by SDPO South Sachit Sharma assisted by SHO Satwari Inspr Sumeet Sharma and In-Charge Police Post Gadigarh SI now Inspr Ravinder Singh did strenuous efforts and finally traced the missing woman from Amritsar.

Subsequently family of the missing woman was informed and she was handed over to her family members after completing all the legal formalities.

25 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a quest to stern the menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which teams of Police Stations Gandhi Nagar and Bagh e Bahu acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at a location in their respective area and seized 4 vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicles include 2 vehicles i.e two dumpers bearing Registration Nos. JK21F 6786 and JK02CV 6559 seized by Gandhi Nagar Police and 2 vehicles i.e one dumper bearing (JK02DA 4447) and one tipper (JK02DD7231) by Bagh e Bahu Police.

The recoveries were made by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspr Pankaj Sharma and SHO Bagh e Bahu Inspr Arti Thakur in their respective jurisdiction.

Samba Police also 21 more vehicles including 5 excavators which were being used for illegal mining in district Samba.

Police teams comprising of SHO Police Station Bari Brahmana Sunil Sharma, SHO Police Station Samba Rajeshwar Singh, SHO Police Station Vijaypur Tribhawan Khajuria, SHO Police Station Ghagwal Bharat Bhushan, SHO Police Station Ramgarh Sudesh Kumar, SI Nanak Chand, Incharge Police Post Gouran PSI Sajid Jaral, Incharge Police Post Supwal PSI Divya Bharti and PSI Ajay Jamwal seized 21 more vehicles being used for illegal mining at different locations in Samba district.

The seized vehicles are: JCB bearing registration No. JK21A-0237, JCB bearing registration No. JK21C-5557, JCB bearing registration No. JK21A-7271, 02 JCBs without registration No., Tipper bearing registration No. JK21G-3691, Dumper bearing registration No. JK21E-7161, Dumper bearing registration No. JK21D-2056, Dumper bearing registration No. JK21D-2057, Dumper bearing registration No. JK21H-5477, Dumper bearing registration No. RJ32GD-0770, Dumper bearing registration No. JK21G-7373, Dumper bearing registration No. JK21J-0731, Dumper without registration No., Tractor Trolley with registration No. JK21F-7793, Tractor Trolley with registration No. JK02BV-8916, Tractor Trolley with registration No. JK02BD-3847, Tractor Trolley with registration No. JK21E-9551, 03 Tractor Trolleys without registration No.

Notorious narcotic smuggler nabbed with sharp edged weapon, heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR: Continuing its drive against drug peddlers on Anti drugs front and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Poonch Police arrested notorious narcotic peddler namely Mohd Zahir alias Pitti, son of Mir Mohd, resident of Gohlad, Mendhar and recovered 6.4 grams of heroin like substance along with sharp edged weapon (khokri) from them. FIR no. 100/2023 under sections 307/353/332 IPC /4/25 Arms act, 8/21 NDPS ACT was registered at Police Station Mendhar.

The police team is searching for him as he is also involved in case FIR no.99/2023 us 353,382,332,452 IPC of Police Station Mendhar along with other accused and when team approached him for his arrest he attacked police team of Police Station Mendhar with sharp edged weapon. The police personals apprehended him.

Chargesheet filed against 9 accused involved in 2022 attack on police case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Police has filed chargesheet against all 9 notorious accused involved in

murderous attack on police case registered in 2022 at Police Station Ghagwal through Police Post Rappura.

As per details, On December 28, 2022, a police party of Police Post Rappura while on duty was attacked by the bovine smugglers at Malaani village situated in the border area of Samba sector in the jurisdiction of Police Post Rappura, Police Station Ghagwal and consequently two police officials were injured. One head constable had sustained grievous head injuries, had to be hospitalized and had to undergo nine stitches in the head. A case FIR No. 181/2022 under sections 307/353/332/336/147/148/323/325 IPC was registered at Police Station Ghagwal through Police Post Rappura, investigation was started and main accused were arrested. As investigation of the case had been completed & case was proved against nine hardcore accused. The Challan of the case has been produced in the court of law for judicial determination.

The notorious accused against whom chargesheet has been filed by police are Shab Ali alias Gugu, son of Sher Din, resident of Handa Chak, Mohd Sadiq alias Hiku son of Taj Din, resident of Chak Bathal Kathua; Sadiq Ali, son of Guggar, resident of Lakhadi Nagrota Udhampur at present Haripur Tehsil Mahreen; Maskeen Ali alias Jatu, resident of Chappaki Tehsil Mahreen, Makhani Din, son of Hussan, resident of Malaani Tehsil Rappura; Zahoor Din, son of Hussan, resident of Malaani Tehsil Rappura; Mohd Shareef, son of Hussan, resident of Malaani Tehsil Rappura; Roshan Bibi, wife of Makhani Din, resident of Malaani Tehsil Rappura and Moju son of Gaya, resident of Malaani Tehsil Rappura district Samba.

Investigation of the case was conducted by SHO Police Station Ghagwal Bharat Bhushan under the supervision of DySPGaru Ram Bhardwaj and Additional SP Samba Surinder Choudhary.

ARTO Doda suspends several DLs, Route Permits & RCs for violation of Traffic Rules

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Doda, Rajesh Gupta has suspended numerous driving licenses, route permits, and Registration Certificates of vehicles found in contravention to different traffic rules here, during the month of May 2023.

As per the department, driving licenses (DLs) with registration numbers JK06-20210001965, JK06-20210001411 and JK06-20210000481 have been suspended initially for a period of three months. The Registration Certificates (RCs) of vehicles bearing numbers JK06B- 3087, JK06B-2513, JK06B-4612, JK06-8034, and JK06A-8479 have also been suspended for three months, while the Route Permits of JK06B-3087 and JK06B-2513 have also been suspended for violation of various traffic rules. It has also been revealed that dozens of notices have been served to the drivers of both private and commercial vehicles under the Motor Vehicle Act for violation of traffic rules.

Burglary case solved; 2 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BARAMULLA: Police on Saturday solved a burglary case by arresting 02 accused persons involved in the commission of crime besides, recovered stolen cash from their possession.

As per details, On June 1, 2023, Police Post Wagoora received a complaint from Abdul Majeed Reshi son of Asadullah Reshi resident of Kalantra Payeen Wagoora stating therein that some unknown burglars barged into his shop (JK Bank Khidmat Centre) when he had gone for lunch and stole cash amounting Rs 97,000/- from the shop.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Kreeri and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, officers with the help of technical and human resources, zeroed in on two persons identified as Ghulam Mustafa Sofi son of Mohd Ibrahim Sofi & Shabir Ahmad Bhat son of Assadullah Bhat, both residents of Diver Yakhmanpora Pattan.

During questioning, both the accused persons confessed their involvement in the commission of crime and on their disclosure, stolen cash was recovered. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Drug peddler arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AWANTIPORA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police on Saturday arrested a drug peddler in Avantipora and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per details, a party of Police Post Reshipora headed by Incharge Police Post Reshipora at a checkpoint established at Kawani Crossing intercepted a suspicious person. During search, 150 grams of charas powder like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Muzaffar Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohd Dar resident of Ladermud. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 119/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Avantipora and investigation has been initiated.

Two held with 108 bottles of liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Two persons have been arrested by police in Teryath area of Rajouri with 108 bottles of liquor have been seized.

In an official statement, Rajouri police said that in the wee morning hours on Saturday, a vehicle JK11F 8800 coming from Pouni towards Teryath was intercepted and frisking with nine boxes containing one hundred and eight bottles of illicit

liquor were recovered from these.

The vehicle was seized at the spot while two person travelling in it have been arrested who include driver Ranjeev Kumar son of Bishamber Dass resident of Teryath and co-driver namely Ankush Kumar son of Tilak Raj resident of Alliya, Tehsil Pouni in Reasi.

In this connection, a case in FIR no 60/23 U/S 48(a) Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Dharamsal.

The recovery has been made by Incharge Police Post Dharamsal PSI Amit Radhey under the supervision of SHO Dharamsal Manpreet Singh.

Narco smuggler escapes from police custody, nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: A notorious Narco smuggler who escaped from police custody in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir was re-arrested on Saturday, officials said.

Sikander Ahmed was arrested by the Punjab Police in a case of narcotics smuggling. He was in the custody of Jammu and Kashmir Police in Nowshera in connection with probe into some other cases when he fled Friday morning.

Following his escape, the officials added, a massive manhunt was launched. He was nabbed from a forested area in Gagrote village of Nowshera.

Officials said the accused is a notorious narcotics peddler and is believed to be a kingpin of cross-border smuggling. He was earlier arrested with a huge consignment of narcotics.

2 die, woman injured in mishaps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two persons were died while a woman was injured in separate mishaps on Saturday. According to the information, Nand Kishore, son of Swarn Lal, resident of Akalpur fell from a tractor in the area. He was taken to the hospital where he died during treatment. In another mishap, Rajesh Kumar, resident of Hiranagar who was going on motorcycle with his wife was hit by a car near Dayalchak on the highway in which both got injured. He was taken to the hospital where man died and his wife is undergoing treatment.

Woman among two consume poison, die

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two persons including a woman consumed poison on their respective houses and died. As per details, Pomila Devi, wife of Yoginder Pal, resident of Shekhpur, Arni consumed some poisonous substance in her house. She was taken to hospital where during investigation doctors declared him as brought dead. Meanwhile, Indra Kumar, son of Brahm Das, resident of Brij Nagar, Miran Sahib also consumed some poisonous substance in his and died. Police have registered both the cases for investigation.

Man died under suspicious condition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A man died in suspicious condition in Janipur area on Saturday. According to the information, family members of Sandesh Kumar, son of Badri Nath, resident Bantalab saw him lying unconscious. He was taken to the hospital where during investigation doctors declared him as brought dead. After getting information, police reached the spot and took his body into custody. A case has been registered in this context.

Constable dismissed from services for authorised absence

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Police on Saturday dismissed a constable namely Arvind Kapoor from services for unauthorised prolonged absence after following all the codal formalities. As per details, suspended constable joined District Police Ramban on September 5, 2019 and absented himself from the duty from September 26/10/2019, till date, making it a total of 3 years and 221 days of absence period.

It is pertinent to mention here that constable Arvind Kapoor is involved in multiple FIRs and has been arrested several times for offences under NDPS ACT and 304 . Three FIRs, FIR NO 171/2015, 65/2018 both under section 8/21/2229 NDPS ACT were registered against the said constable at Police station Bakshti Nagar and he was recently arrested by police station Bakshti nagar again under FIR NO 281/2023 under section 304/297/201. The said constable was given multiple signals and various show cause notices were served through concerned police stations and newspapers, but every time he failed to join back the duties. Considering the criminal record and the willful prolonged absence from duties, District Police Office Ramban issued an order no : 203 of 2023 dated June 3, 2023 dismissing him from services.

Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA : Police on Saturday recovered/seized approx. 10.45 Grams of Heroin(Chitta) like narcotics in the jurisdictional area of Police Station Lakhampur and arrested a narco smuggler. As per details, a police team led by Insp. Vijay Kotwal SHO Police Station Lakhampur during routine Naka/checking at Basohli Morh Lakhampur area apprehended one suspect namely Chetan Kumar, son of Jagga Ram, resident of Chack Drab Khan Tehsil & District Kathua who was coming from Punjab towards Lakhampur. On Physical search, approximately 10.45 grams of heroin(chitta) like narcotics was recovered from his possession. He was arrested on the spot and FIR No. 61/2023 under sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Lakhampur.